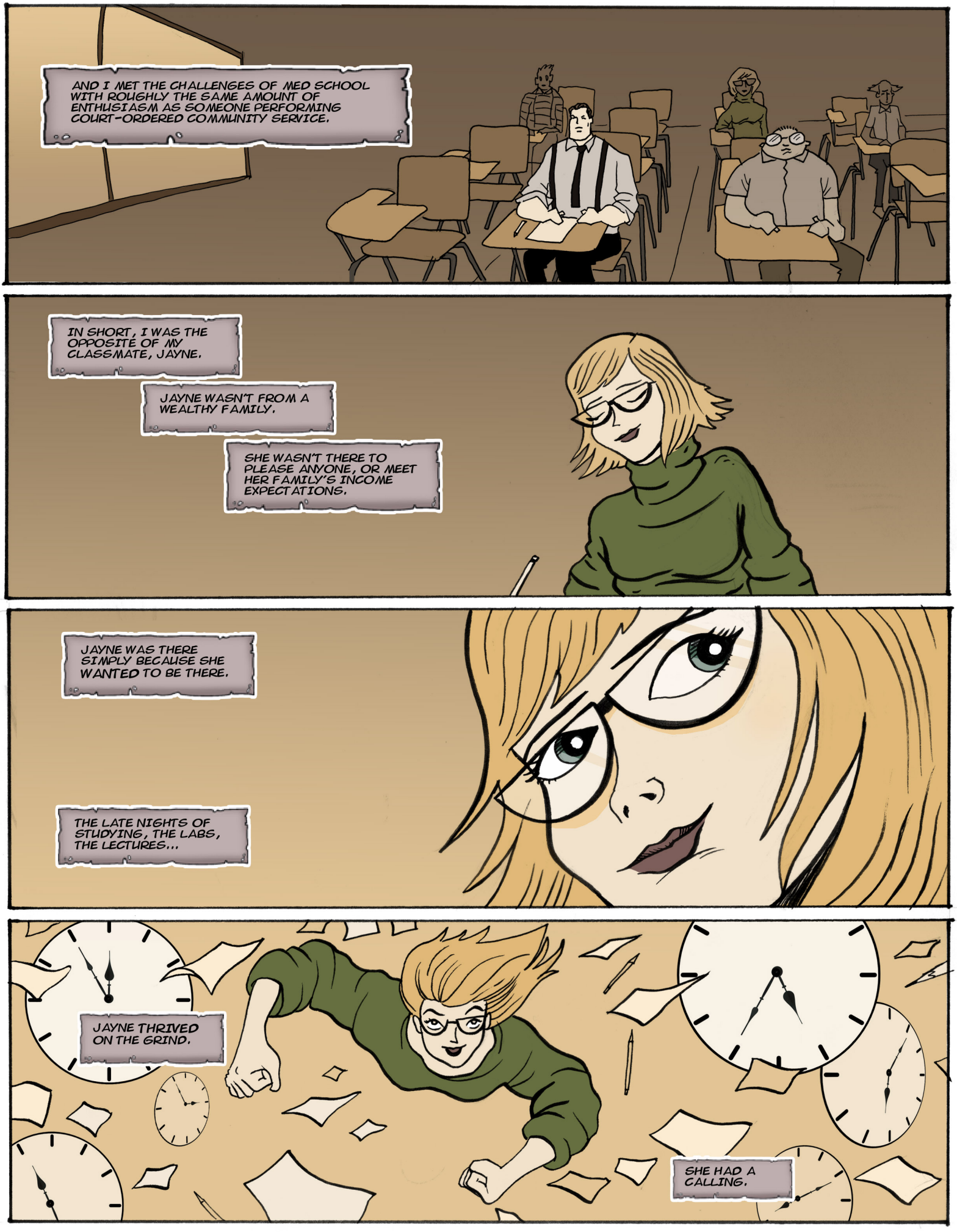
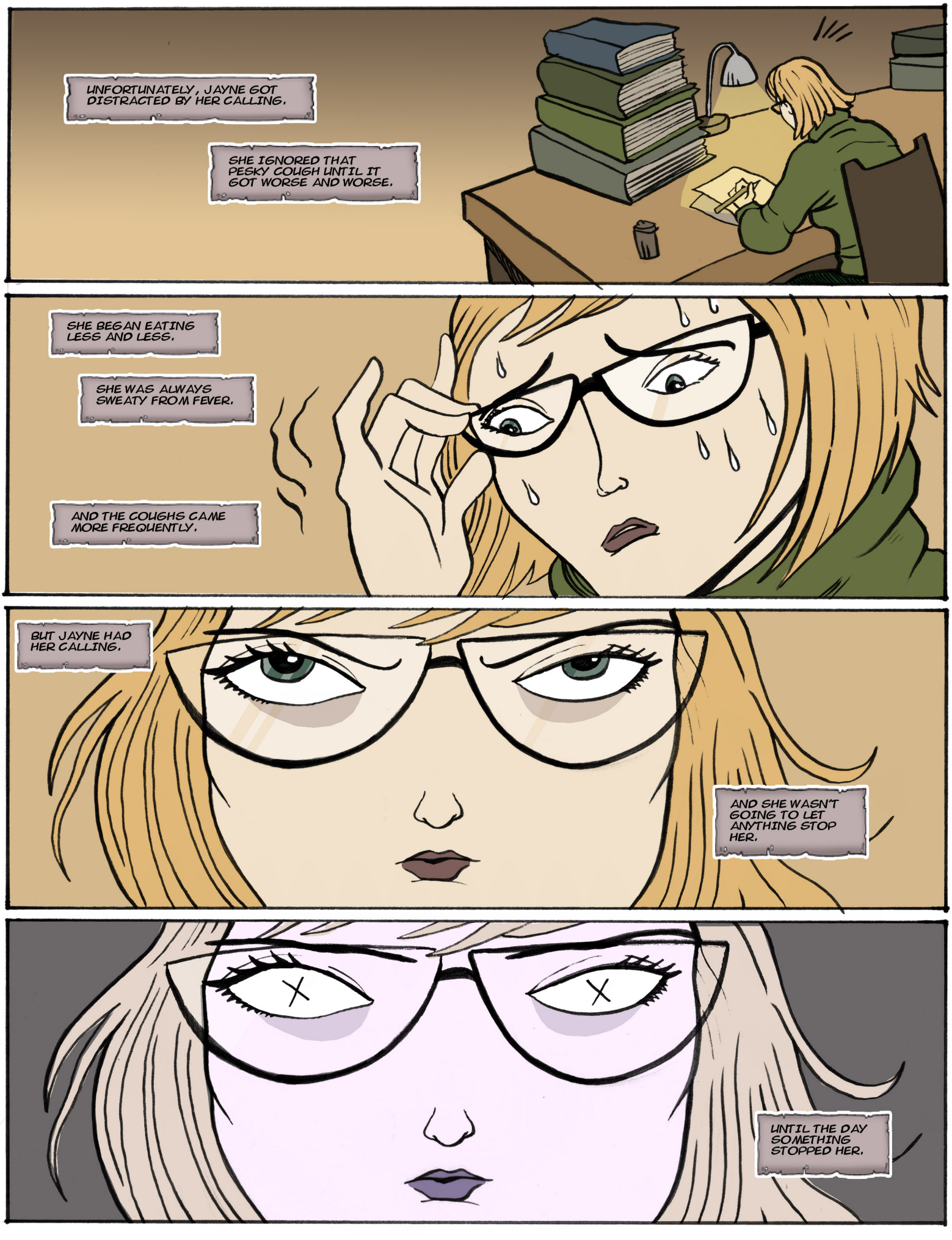
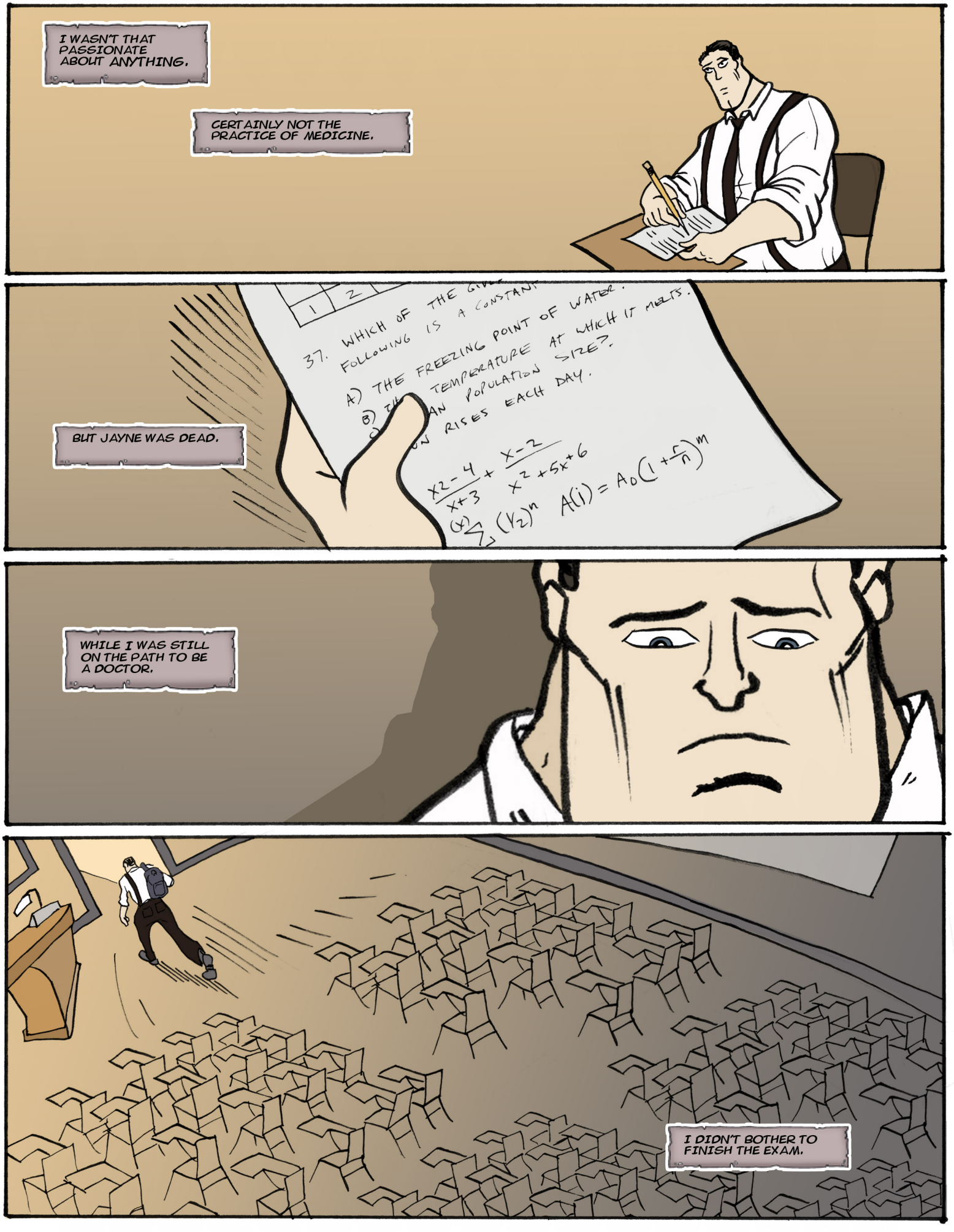
HERO ACTION PERSONS
4
Shaddox , Ostley , Ru

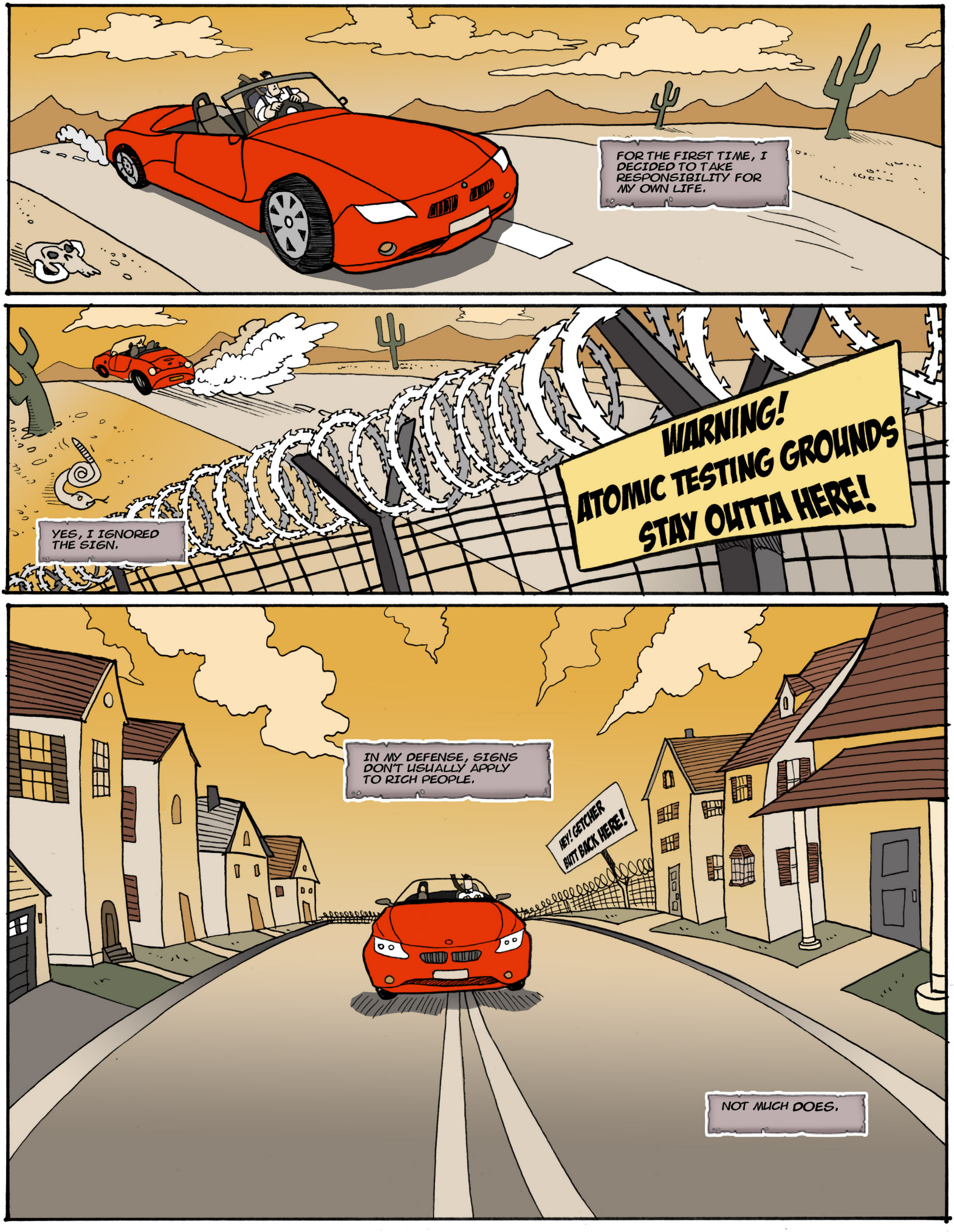
ONE OF LIFE'S GREAT IRONIES IS THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO DO YOUR JOB TOO WELL.
IF YOU GET RID OF CRIME, WIPE OUT DISEASE, OR INVENT SOMETHING THAT NEVER BREAKS, YOU'LL ULTIMATELY FIND YOURSELF WITHOUT A PURPOSE.
LIKE MOST PEOPLE, I HAD NO IDEA WHAT I WANTED TO DO WITH MY LIFE.
SO I DID WHAT OTHERS TOLD ME I SHOULD BE DOING.
AS I PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, MY FATHER WAS A SUCCESSFUL DOCTOR.
SO, PEOPLE ASSUMED I SHOULD BE ONE AS WELL.
THE FACT THAT I HAD NO INTEREST OR APTITUDE IN PRACTICING MEDICINE DIDN'T SEEM TO MATTER.
MY FATHER COULD AFFORD THE TUITION, AND HE KNEW THE RIGHT PEOPLE...
... SO MY LACKLUSTER ACADMEIC PERFORMANCE WAS A MOOT POINT.

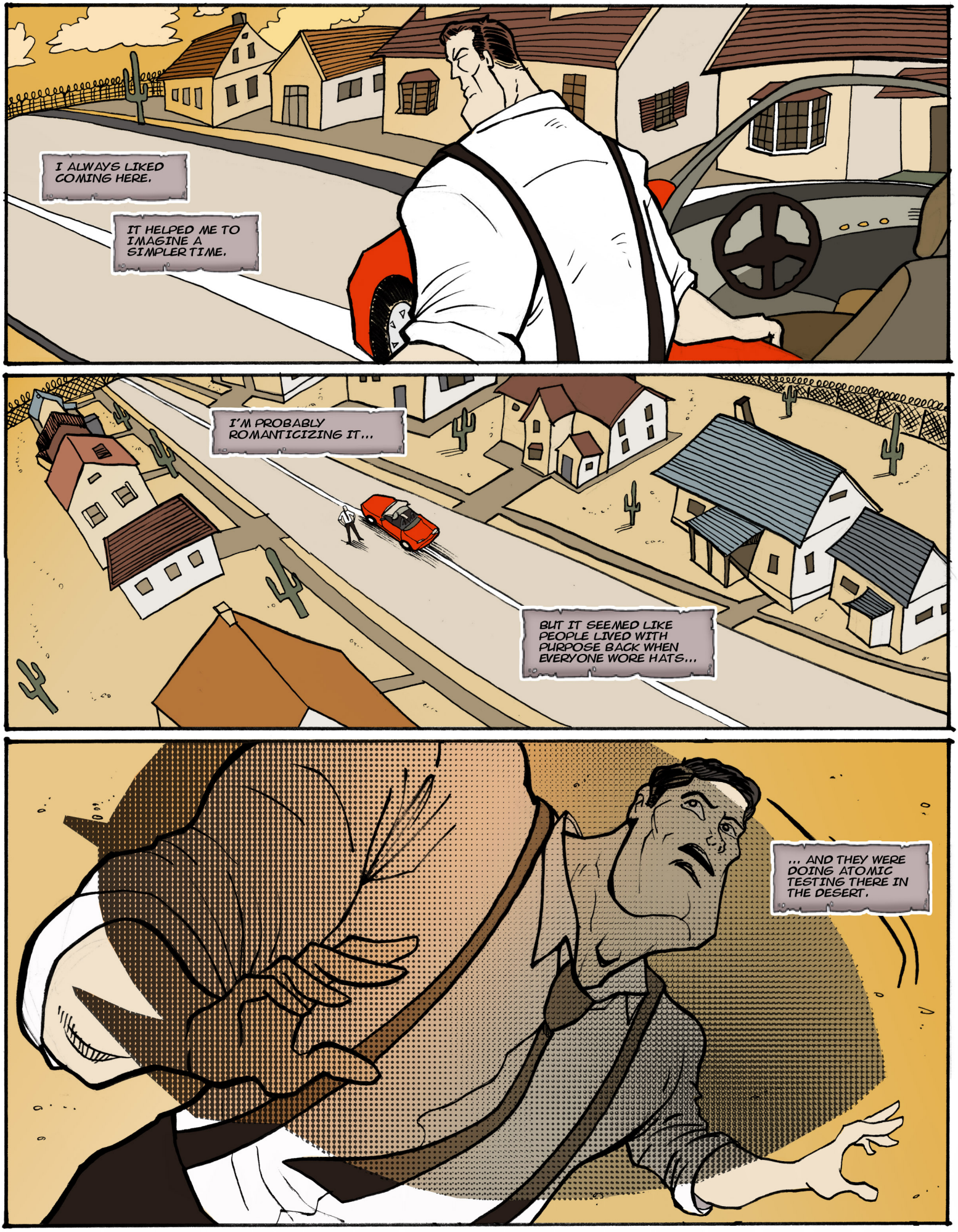

AND I MET THE CHALLENGES OF MED SCHOOL WITH ROUGHLY THE SAME AMOUNT OF ENTHUSIASM AS SOMEONE PERFORMING COURT-ORDERED COMMUNITY SERVICE.
IN SHORT, I WAS THE OPPOSITE OF MY CLASSMATE, JAYNE.
JAYNE WASN'T FROM A WEALTHY FAMILY.
SHE WASN'T THERE TO PLEASE ANYONE, OR MEET HER FAMILY'S INCOME EXPECTATIONS.
JAYNE WAS THERE SIMPLY BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO BE THERE.
THE LATE NIGHTS OF STUDYING, THE LABS, THE LECTURES...
JAYNE THRIVED ON THE GRIND.
SHE HAD A CALLING.


UNFORTUNATELY, JAYNE GOT DISTRACTED BY HER CALLING.
SHE IGNORED THAT PESKY COUGH UNTIL IT GOT WORSE AND WORSE.
SHE BEGAN EATING LESS AND LESS.
SHE WAS ALWAYS SWEATY FROM FEVER.
AND THE COUGHS CAME MORE FREQUENTLY.
BUT JAYNE HAD HER CALLING.
AND SHE WASN'T GOING TO LET ANYTHING STOP HER.
UNTIL THE DAY SOMETHING STOPPED HER.

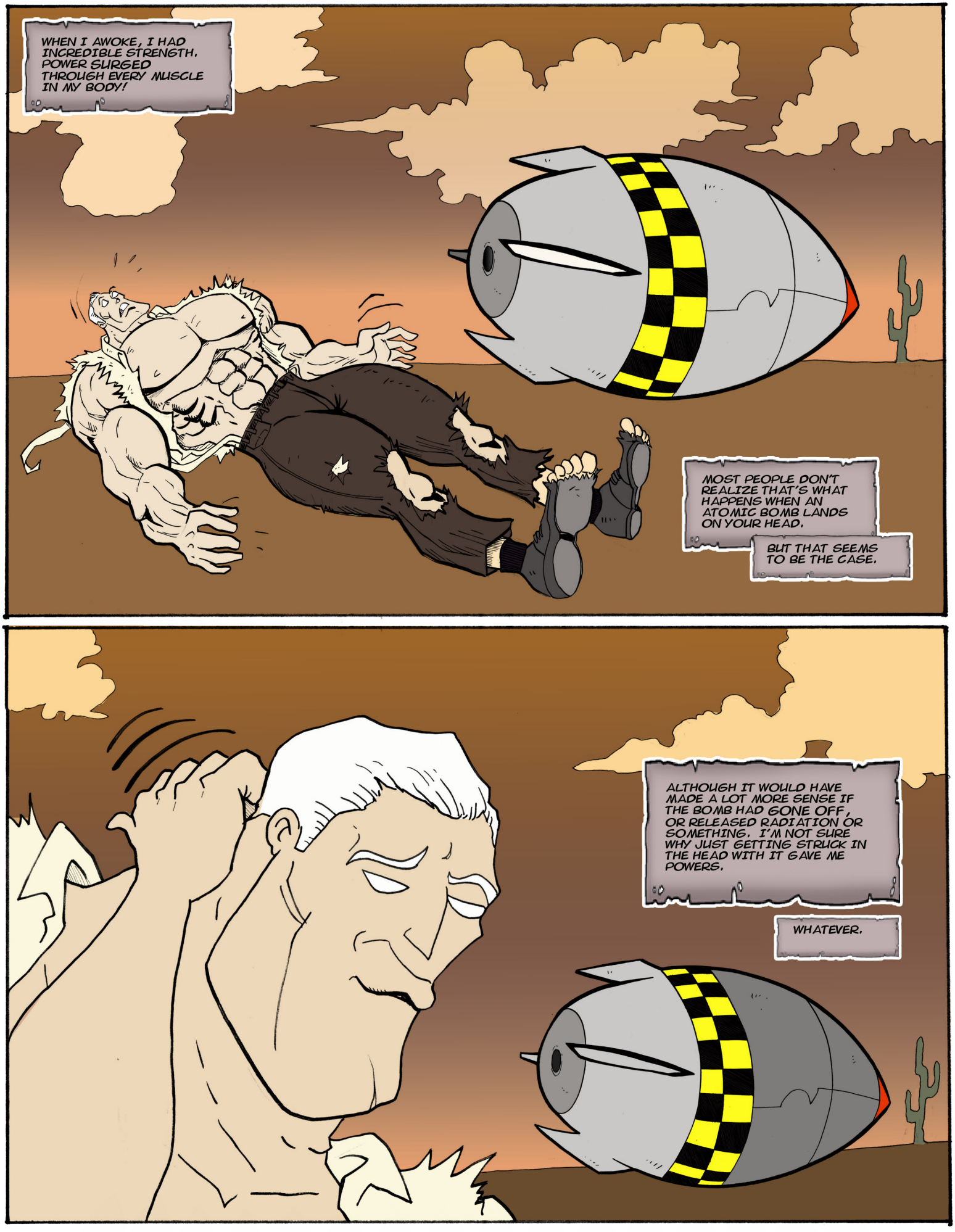
JAYNE DIED IN HER SLEEP ON PNEUMONIA.
THE WEEK BEFORE FINAL EXAMS.
IT WAS SAID THAT IF SHE HAD SEEN A DOCTOR EARLY ON, THE DISEASE WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE TREATABLE.
BUT, AS WAS REMARKED AT HER FUNERAL...
THE BEST DOCTORS MAKE THE WORST PATIENTS.
AS I SAT IN MY BIO-CHEM FINAL, I THOUGHT ABOUT JAYNE.
ABOUT HOW SHE WAS SO DEDICATED, SHE IGNORED SOMETHING THAT WAS KILLING HER.

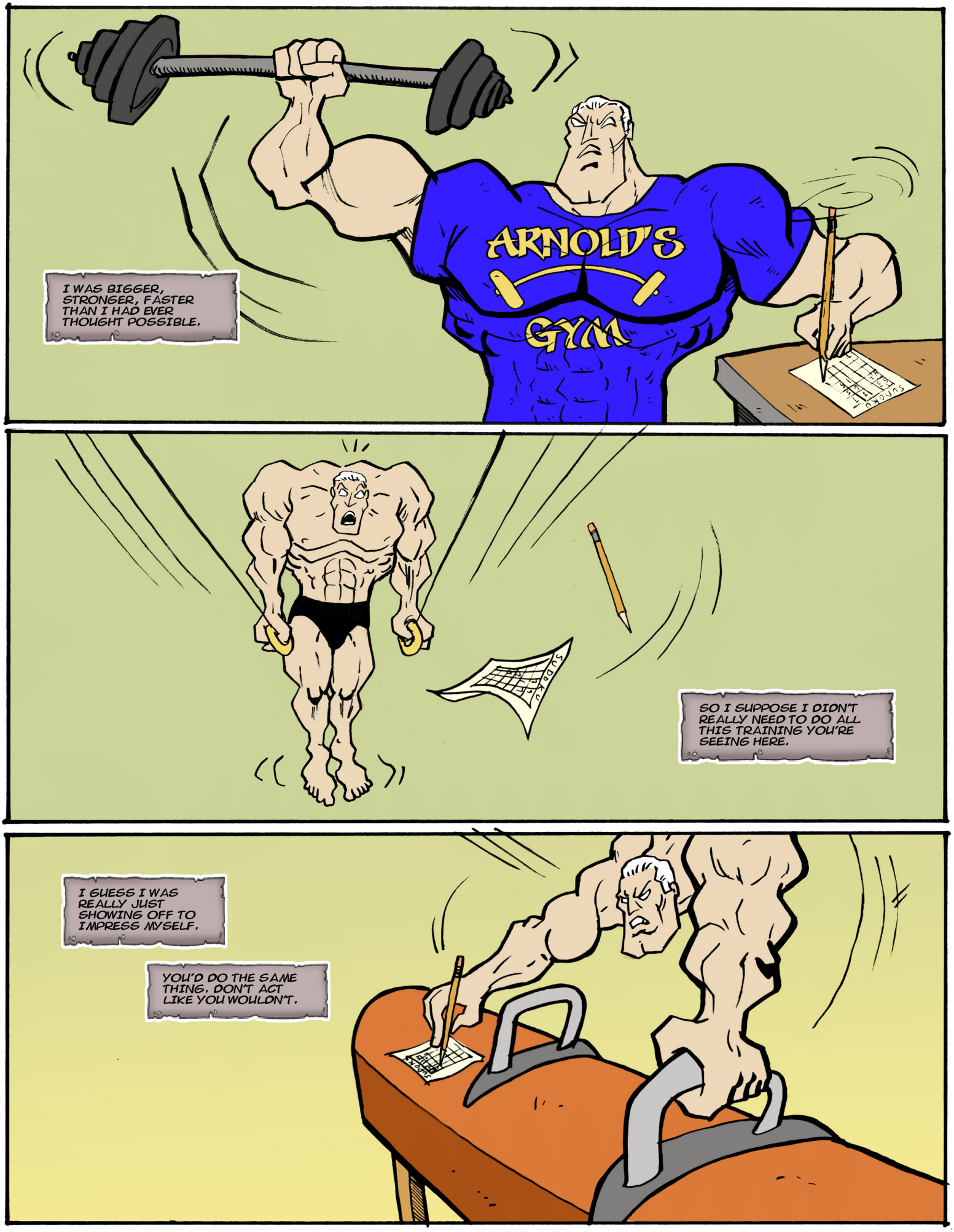

I WASN'T THAT PASSIONATE ABOUT ANYTHING.
CERTAINLY NOT THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.
37. WHICH OF THE
FOLLOWING IS A CONSTANT
A) THE FREEZING POINT OF WATER.
B)
TEMPERATURE AT WHICH IT MELTS.
AN POPULATION SIZE?
N RISES EACH DAY.
BUT JAYNE WAS DEAD.
WHILE I WAS STILL ON THE PATH TO BE A DOCTOR.
I DIDN'T BOTHER TO FINISH THE EXAM.

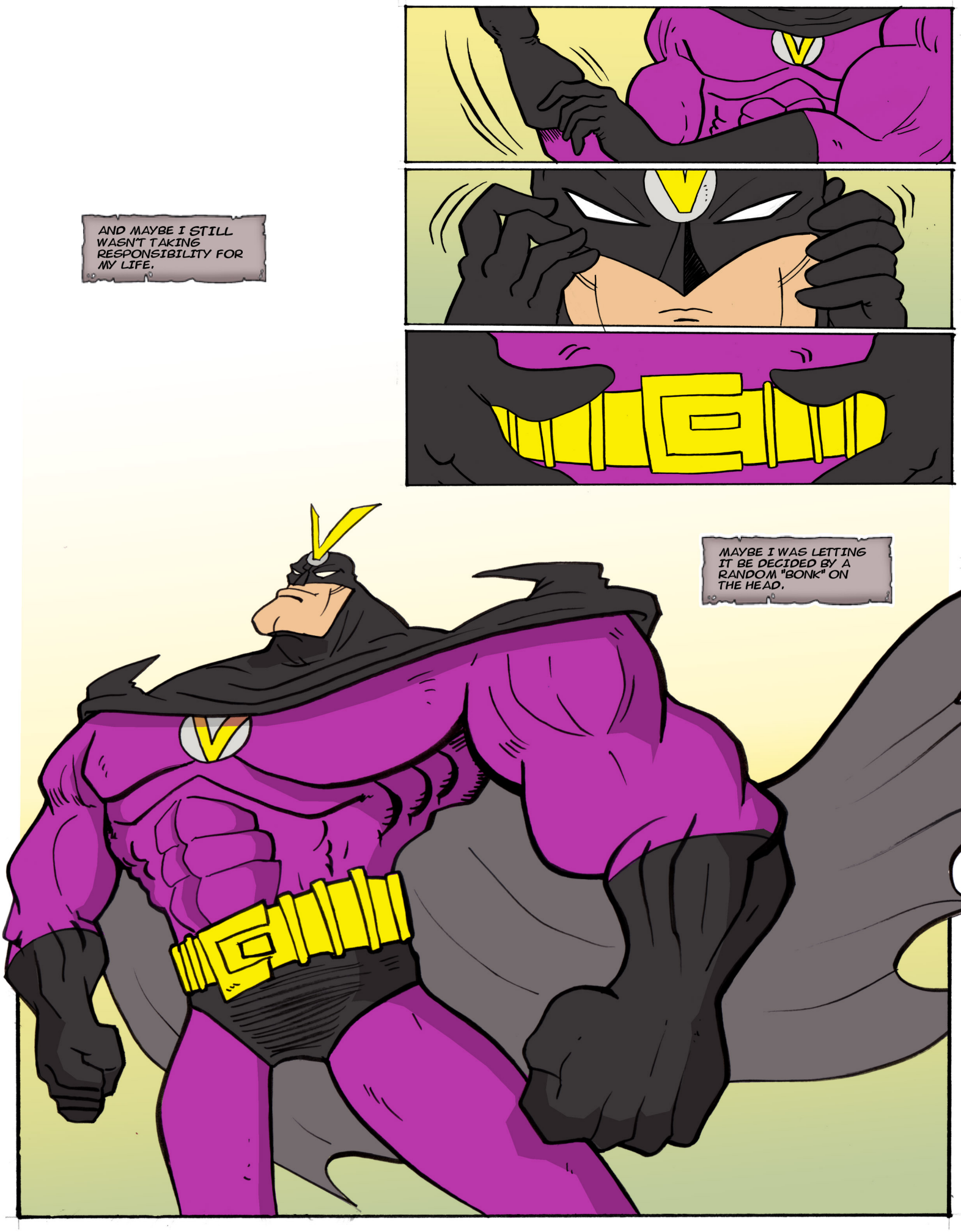

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I DECIDED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY OWN LIFE.
WARNING!
ATOMIC TESTING GROUNDS
STAY OUTTA HERE!
YES, I IGNORED THE SIGN.
IN MY DEFENSE, SIGNS DON'T USUALLY APPLY TO RICH PEOPLE.
HEY! GETCHER BUTT BACK HERE!
NOT MUCH DOES.


I ALWAYS LIKED COMING HERE.
IT HELPED ME TO IMAGINE A SIMPLER TIME.
I'M PROBABLY ROMANTICIZING IT...
BUT IT SEEMED LIKE PEOPLE LIVED WITH PURPOSE BACK WHEN EVERYONE WORE HATS...
... AND THEY WERE DOING ATOMIC TESTING THERE IN THE DESERT.

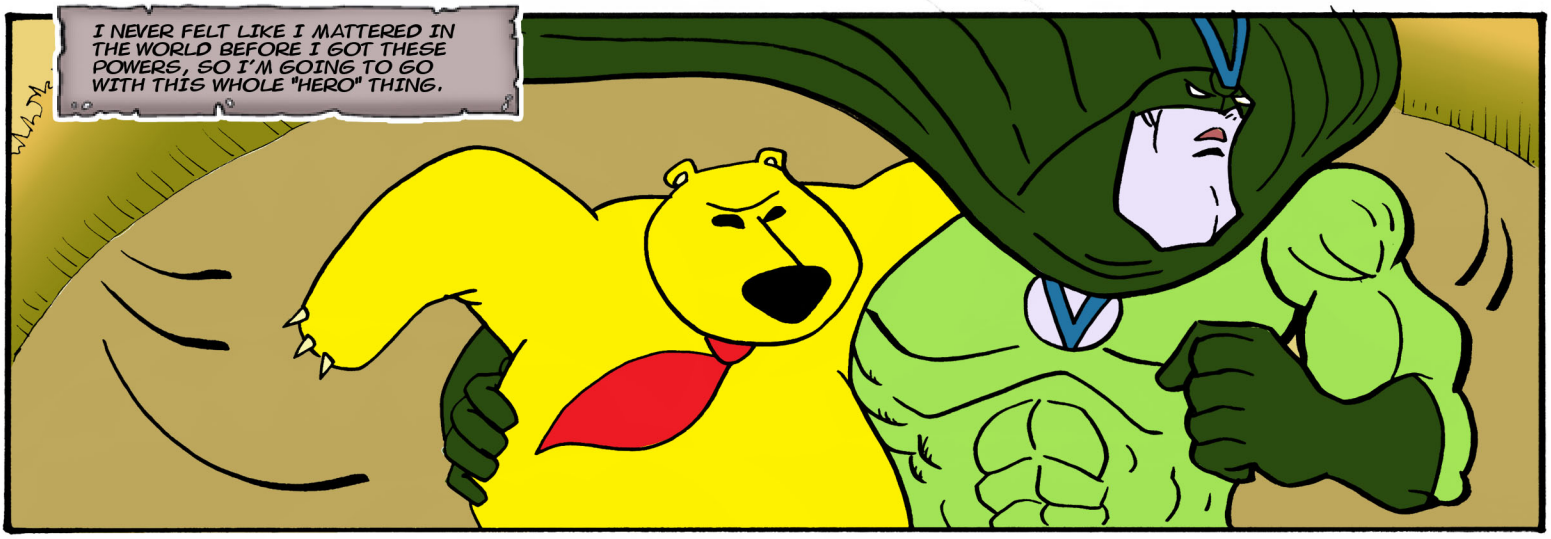
KA-BONKITY!
APPARENTLY, SOMETHINGS HADN'T CHANGED.


WHEN I AWOKE, I HAD INCREDIBLE STRENGTH. POWER SURGED THROUGH EVERY MUSCLE IN MY BODY!
MOST PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN ATOMIC BOMB LANDS ON YOUR HEAD.
BUT THAT SEEMS TO BE THE CASE.
ALTHOUGH IT WOULD HAVE MADE A LOT MORE SENSE IF THE BOMB HAD GONE OFF, OR RELEASED RADIATION OR SOMETHING. I'M NOT SURE WHY JUST GETTING STRUCK IN THE HEAD WITH IT GAVE ME POWERS.
WHATEVER.


I WAS BIGGER, STRONGER, FASTER THAN I HAD EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE.
ARNOLD'S GYM
SO I SUPPOSE I DIDN'T REALLY NEED TO DO ALL THIS TRAINING YOU'RE SEEING HERE.
I GUESS I WAS REALLY JUST SHOWING OFF TO IMPRESS MYSELF.
YOU'D DO THE SAME THING. DON'T ACT LIKE YOU WOULDN'T.


AND MAYBE I STILL WASN'T TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY LIFE.
MAYBE I WAS LETTING IT BE DECIDED BY A RANDOM "BONK" ON THE HEAD.

WHOEVER YOU ARE...
THANK YOU.
NO PROBLEM.
ALL I KNOW IS THIS...



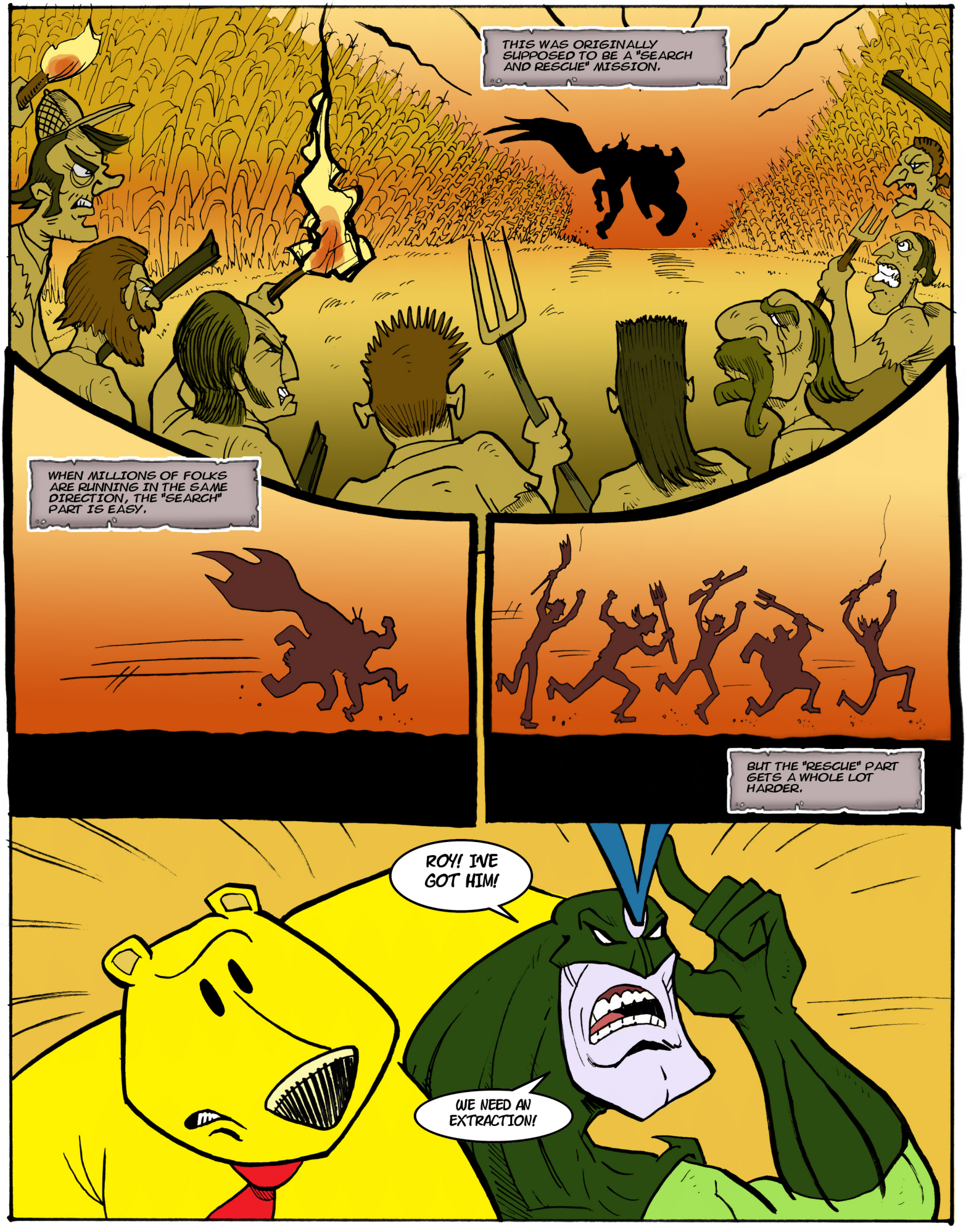
HERO ACTION PERSONS

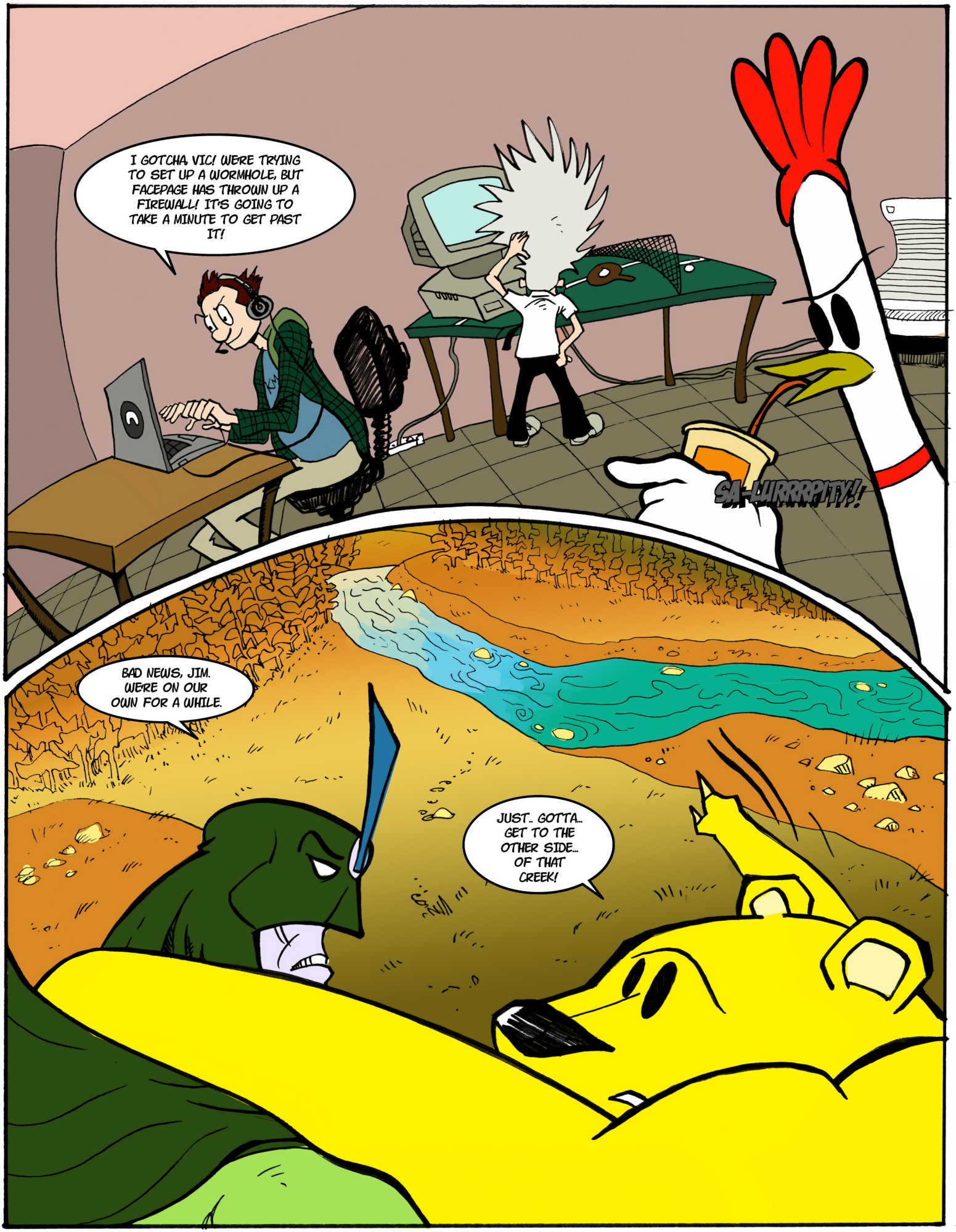
THE SOCIAL (NETWORKING SITE) WAR SAGA

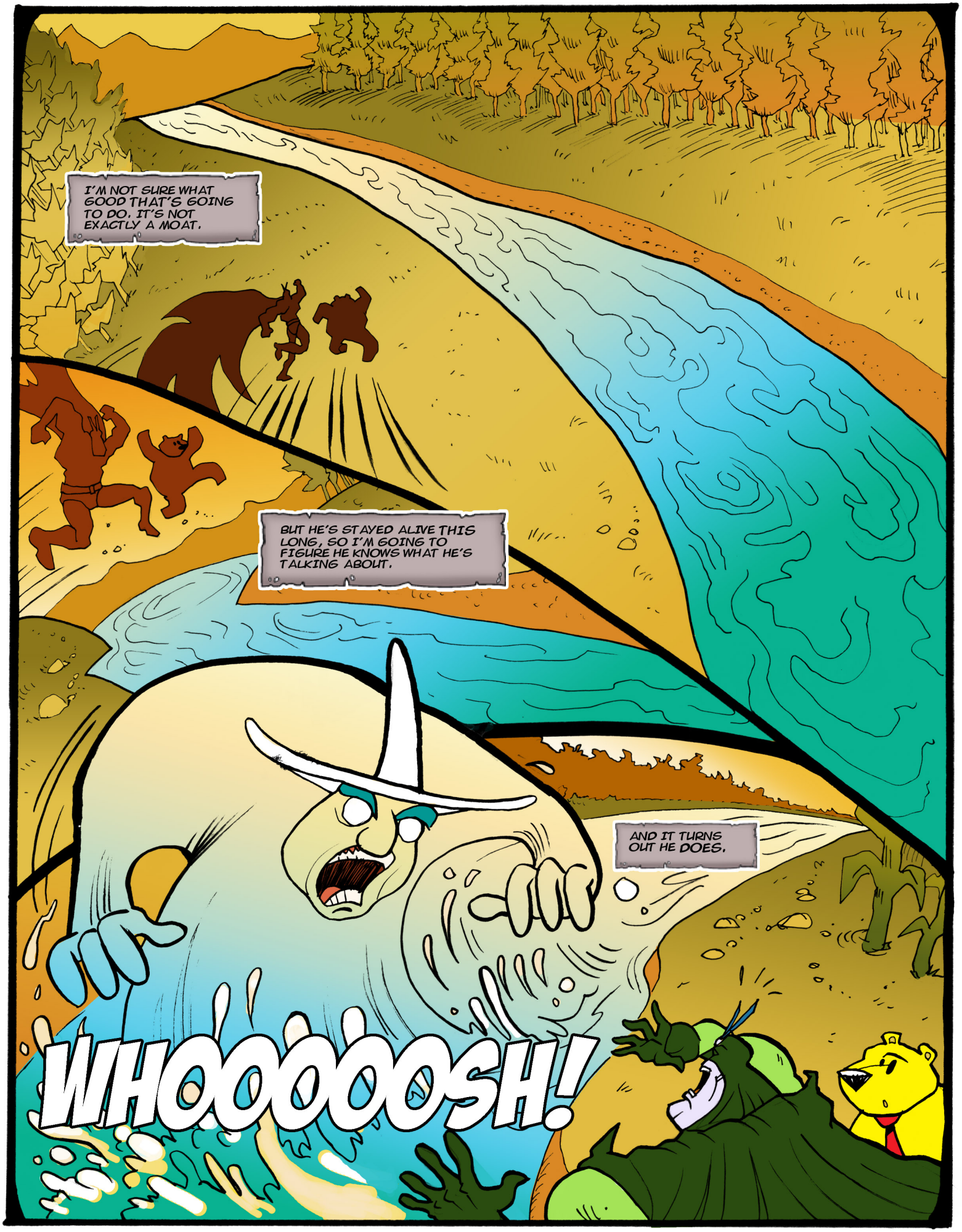
PART 4 :

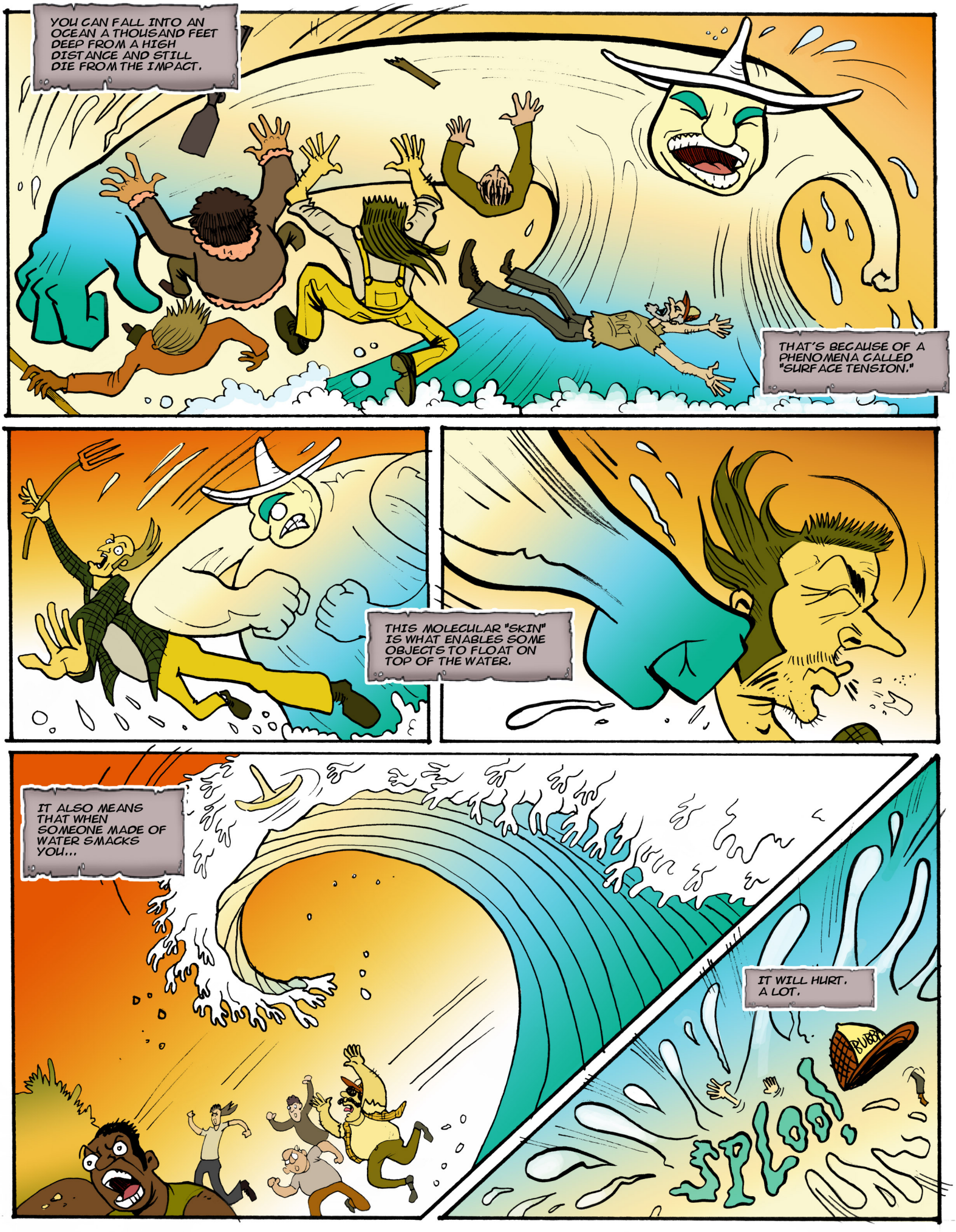
"ANSWERS I DON'T WANT TO QUESTIONS I DIDN'T ASK"

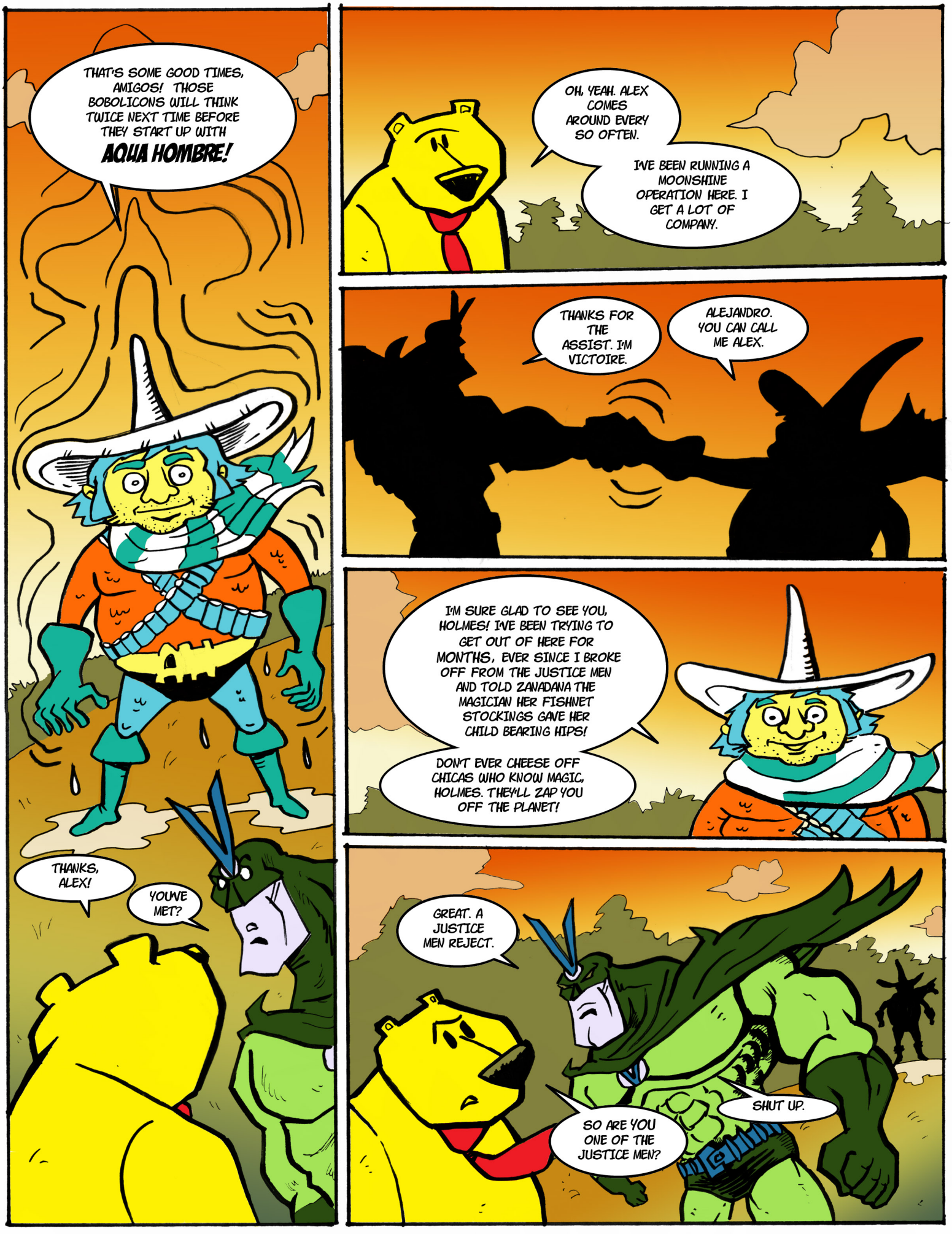
A.D. SHADDOX: SCRIPT/LETTERS GABE OSTLEY: PENCILS/INKS RU: COLORS/FX


THIS WAS ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO BE A "SEARCH AND RESCUE" MISSION.
WHEN MILLIONS OF FOLKS ARE RUNNING IN THE SAME DIRECTION, THE "SEARCH" PART IS EASY.
BUT THE "RESCUE" PART GETS A WHOLE LOT HARDER.
ROY! I'VE GOT HIM!
WE NEED AN EXTRACTION!


I GOTCHA, VIC! WERE TRYING TO SET UP A WORMHOLE, BUT FACEPAGE HAS THROWN UP A FIREWALL! IT'S GOING TO TAKE A MINUTE TO GET PAST IT!
SA-LURRRPITY!!
BAD NEWS, JIM. WERE ON OUR OWN FOR A WHILE.
JUST.. GOTTA... GET TO THE OTHER SIDE... OF THAT CREEK!


I'M NOT SURE WHAT GOOD THAT'S GOING TO DO. IT'S NOT EXACTLY A MOAT.
BUT HE'S STAYED ALIVE THIS LONG, SO I'M GOING TO FIGURE HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT.
AND IT TURNS OUT HE DOES.
WHOOOOOOSH!

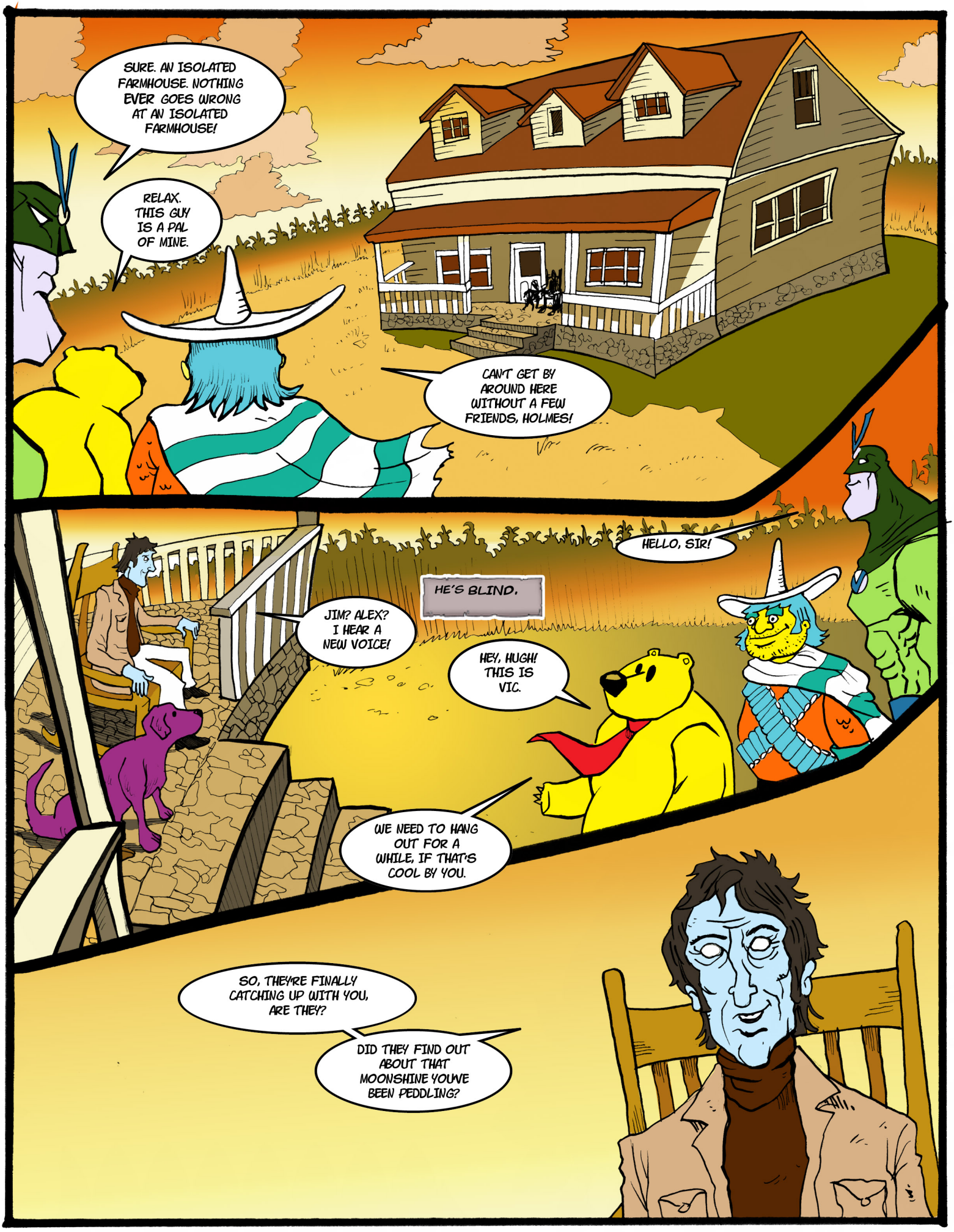

YOU CAN FALL INTO AN OCEAN A THOUSAND FEET DEEP FROM A HIGH DISTANCE AND STILL DIE FROM THE IMPACT.
THAT'S BECAUSE OF A PHENOMENA CALLED "SURFACE TENSION."
THIS MOLECULAR "SKIN" IS WHAT ENABLES SOME OBJECTS TO FLOAT ON TOP OF THE WATER.
IT ALSO MEANS THAT WHEN SOMEONE MADE OF WATER SMACKS YOU...
IT WILL HURT. A LOT.
SPLOO.


THAT'S SOME GOOD TIMES, AMIGOS! THOSE BOBOLICONS WILL THINK TWICE NEXT TIME BEFORE THEY START UP WITH AQUA HOMBRE!
THANKS, ALEX!
YOUVE MET?
OH, YEAH. ALEX COMES AROUND EVERY SO OFTEN.
IVE BEEN RUNNING A MOONSHINE OPERATION HERE. I GET A LOT OF COMPANY.
THANKS FOR THE ASSIST. I'M VICTOIRE.
ALEJANDRO. YOU CAN CALL ME ALEX.
I'M SURE GLAD TO SEE YOU, HOLMES! IVE BEEN TRYING TO GET OUT OF HERE FOR MONTHS, EVER SINCE I BROKE OFF FROM THE JUSTICE MEN AND TOLD ZANADANA THE MAGICIAN HER FISHNET STOCKINGS GAVE HER CHILD BEARING HIPS!
DON'T EVER CHEESE OFF CHICAS WHO KNOW MAGIC, HOLMES. THEY'LL ZAP YOU OFF THE PLANET!
GREAT. A JUSTICE MEN REJECT.
SO ARE YOU ONE OF THE JUSTICE MEN?
SHUT UP.

looks like the gamers found the bear FOR us.
yep. i've seen that water guy before, too.
so who's that NEW guy?
He doesn't have a profile. He's like the bear and all those other random characters in SupersTown that no one can explain.
I'm not sure how he got here, but he *didn't* create an account.
this is really a pain. i'd like to reformat the hard drives and just start over.
can you imagine the uproar if we did that? We're talking millions of deleted accounts!
i know. there r just so many glitches like those "guys," and they've been a pain to get rid of.
it's like they think for themselves. whoever came up with these things put some AMAZING a.i. in 'em.

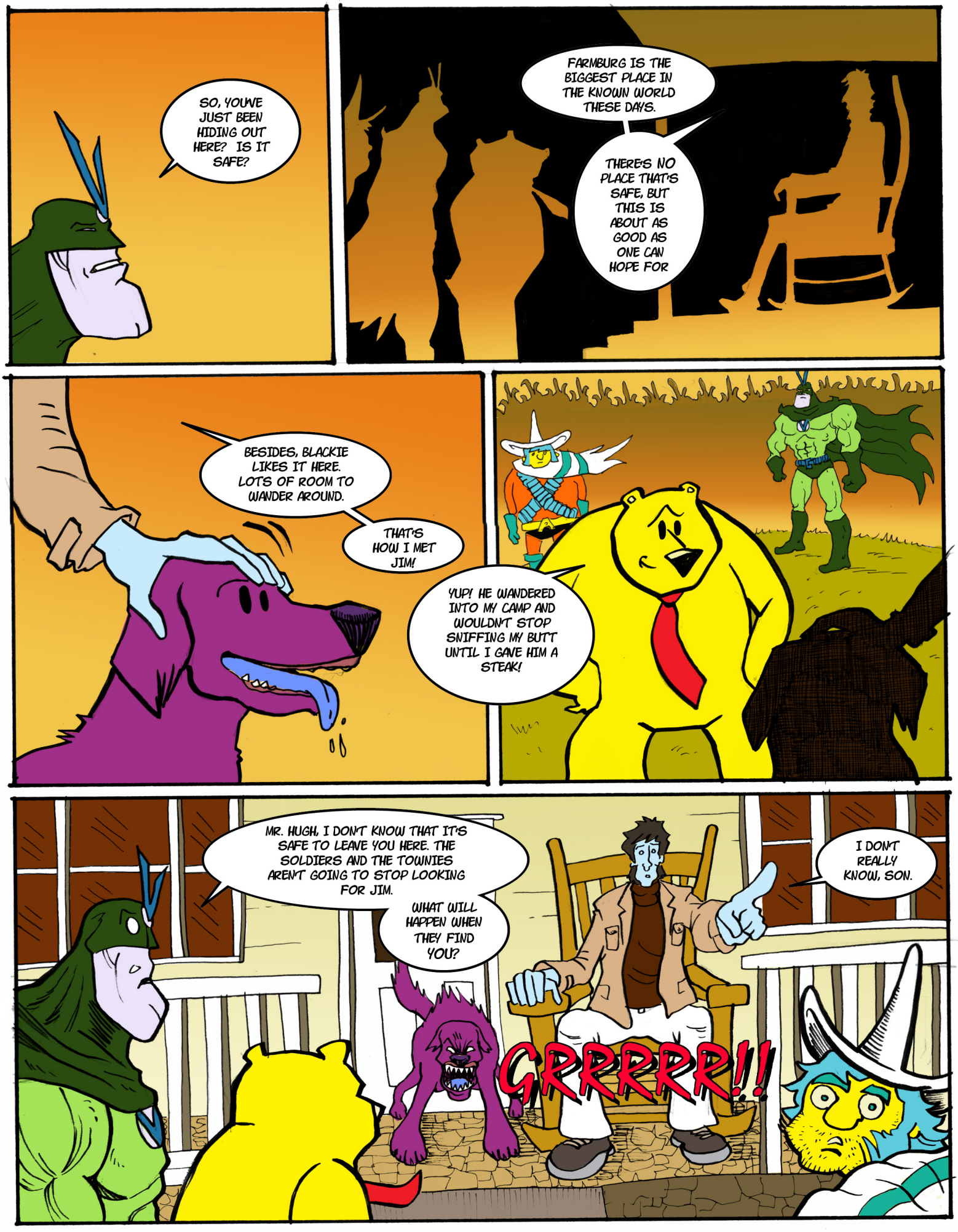
maybe whoever is putting these things on the server is controlling them somehow.
THAT many? ALL the time?
may-b it's a former FP employee, swiping elements of our avatar system and using it to jerk us around. who knows?
it wld b a pain, but it could b done.
Sir? I think we've got something.
The new one is chatting with someone.
who? is he using IM? can we trace them?
Yes, sir. He's talking to someone outside the server using a voice chat setup.
rlly? usually these things just talk 2 each OTHER.
whoever he's talking to... does that person have a FP acct?
Yes, sir. Shall I boot him off the system and deactivate his account?

no. we want to keep the connection the live user. that could b our hacker. what do we know about him?
Not much. His only FP friend is a guy named Dennis who used a photo of a chicken as his profile pic.
I see. well, that tells us nothing. what about his acct activity?
We checked his account history. He's conducted one user search in the last 24
One woman. A "Laura O'Brien."
of course. it's always a girl. he probably thinks he'll impress her by hacking into our system.
what should we do?
keep her profile handy.
meanwhile, get everyone in Tech Support online and send a description of our new costumed idiot over to the guys running the SupersTown game.
Already done, sir. they don't know who he is.
of course they don't. their characters get out and run roughshod all over the server and glitch up the whole thing and they don't have any idea why.
i should have taken that job at DeVry.

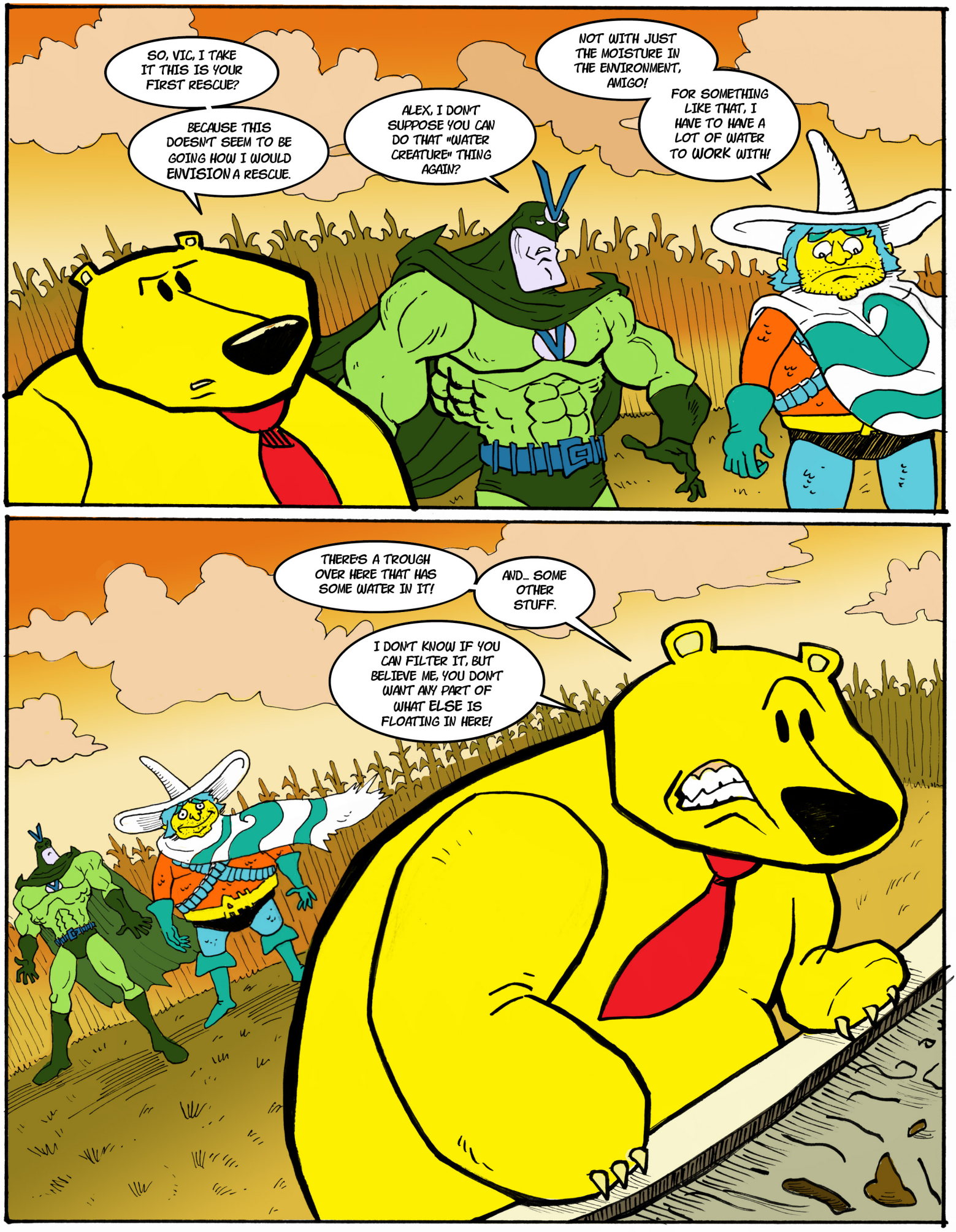

SURE. AN ISOLATED FARMHOUSE. NOTHING EVER GOES WRONG AT AN ISOLATED FARMHOUSE!
RELAX. THIS GUY IS A PAL OF MINE.
CAN'T GET BY AROUND HERE WITHOUT A FEW FRIENDS, HOLMES!
HELLO, SIR!
HE'S BLIND.
JIM? ALEX? I HEAR A NEW VOICE!
HEY, HUGH! THIS IS VIC.
WE NEED TO HANG OUT FOR A WHILE, IF THAT'S COOL BY YOU.
SO, THEY'RE FINALLY CATCHING UP WITH YOU, ARE THEY?
DID THEY FIND OUT ABOUT THAT MOONSHINE YOU'VE BEEN PEDDLING?

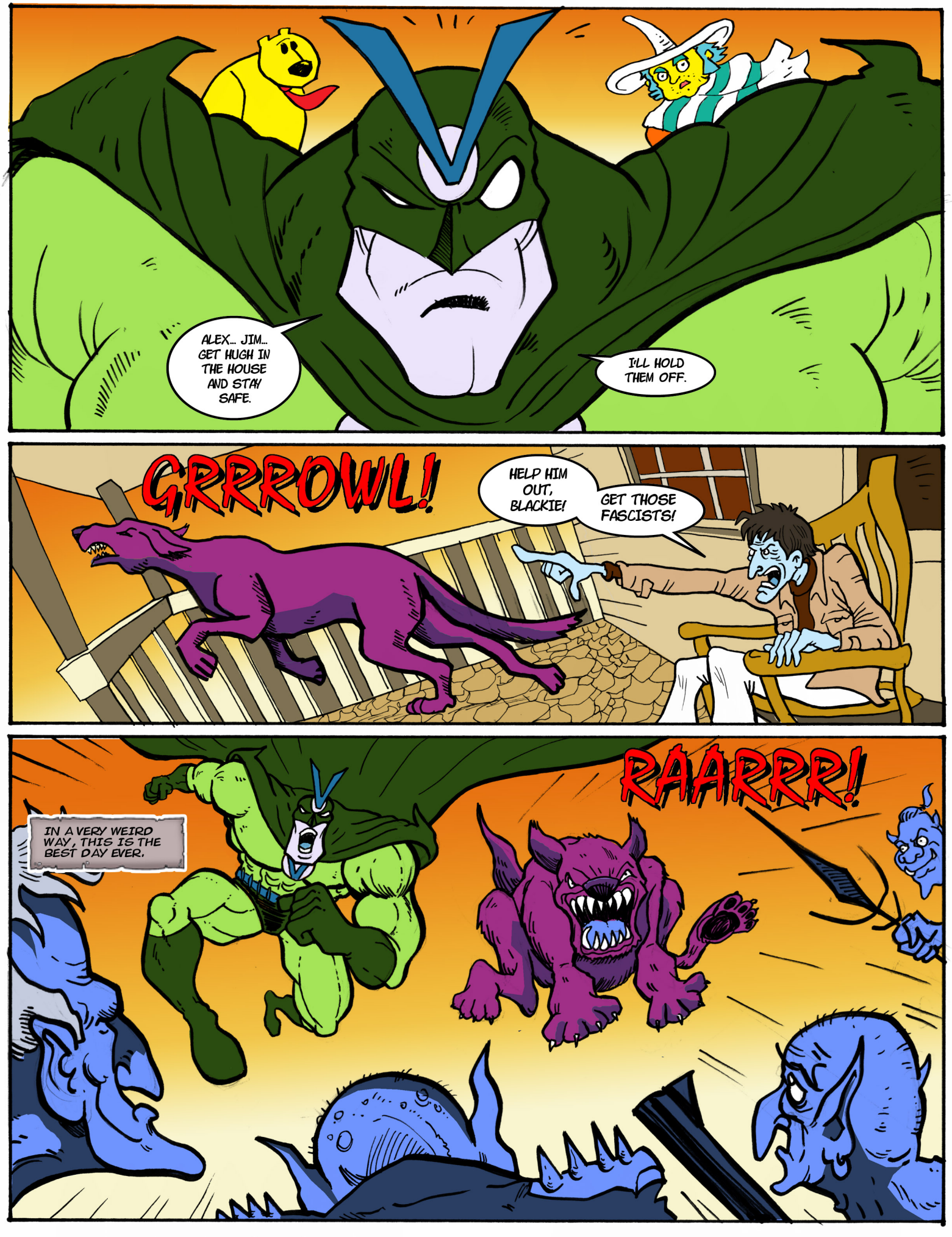
I THINK THEY'RE MORE CHEESED OFF THAT IVE BEEN EATING THE COWS.
IF THEY'D LET ME IN THAT STUPID DINER, WE WOULDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM.
NO, IT'S MORE THAN THAT. THEY'RE CRACKING DOWN ON EVERYONE IN THE WORLD WHO DOESN'T HAVE A "PROFILE" WITH THEM
IS THAT IT? IF I KNEW HOW TO GET ONE, I WOULD!
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE EVER GOING TO LET YOU BE PART OF THEIR CLUB, JIM!
BUT DON'T FEEL BAD. THEY DON'T WANT ALEX, OR ME, OR EVEN OLD BLACKIE HERE
SO, WHY ALL THE FUSS? WHAT DO THEY WANT?
IT'S SIMPLE, VIC.
THEY WANT CONTROL.

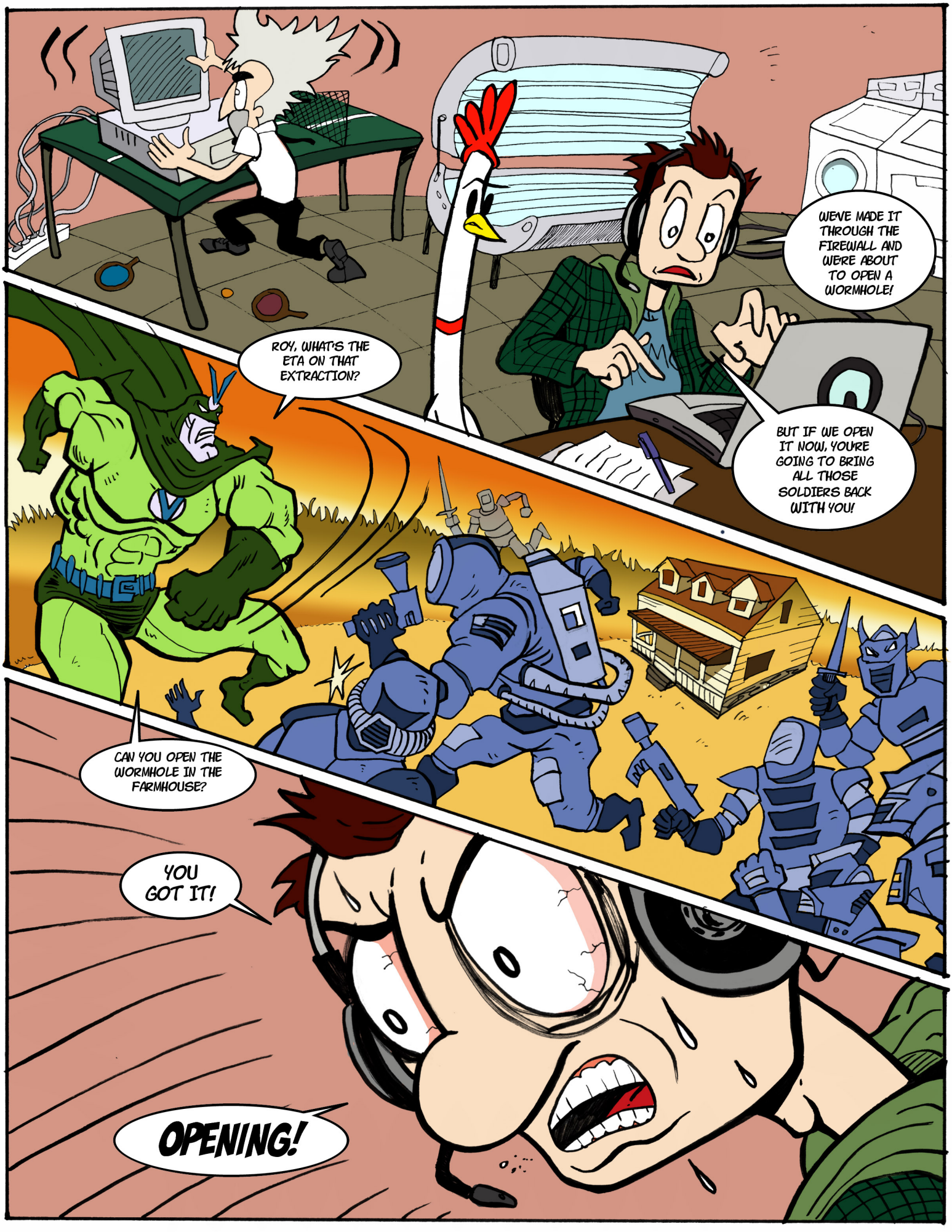
WE WERE FIGHTING THE AXIS POWERS TO KEEP THAT SORT OF OPPRESSION AT BAY.
THE NEXT THING WE KNEW, THE WAR HAD BEEN LOST SOMEHOW. EVERYONE HAD THESE REGISTERED "PROFILES" AND GIVEN "TERMS AND CONDITIONS" AS TO HOW THEY WERE TO LIVE THEIR LIVES.
EXCEPT US "MYSTERY MEN." WE WENT FROM CHAMPIONS TO OUTLAWS IN WHAT SEEMED LIKE OVERNIGHT!
THEY HATE US.
THEY HUNT US.
A LOT OF US JUST HIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT OVER IN SUPERSTOWN.
KILL SUPERS!


SO, YOUVE JUST BEEN HIDING OUT HERE? IS IT SAFE?
FARMBURG IS THE BIGGEST PLACE IN THE KNOWN WORLD THESE DAYS.
THERE'S NO PLACE THAT'S SAFE, BUT THIS IS ABOUT AS GOOD AS ONE CAN HOPE FOR
BESIDES, BLACKIE LIKES IT HERE. LOTS OF ROOM TO WANDER AROUND.
THAT'S HOW I MET JIM!
YUP! HE WANDERED INTO MY CAMP AND WOULDN'T STOP SNIFFING MY BUTT UNTIL I GAVE HIM A STEAK!
MR. HUGH, I DON'T KNOW THAT IT'S SAFE TO LEAVE YOU HERE. THE SOLDIERS AND THE TOWNIES AREN'T GOING TO STOP LOOKING FOR JIM.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THEY FIND YOU?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW, SON.
GRRRRR!!

BUT I THINK TODAY IS THE DAY I FIND OUT!


SO, VIC, I TAKE IT THIS IS YOUR FIRST RESCUE?
BECAUSE THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE GOING HOW I WOULD ENVISION A RESCUE.
ALEX, I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU CAN DO THAT "WATER CREATURE" THING AGAIN?
NOT WITH JUST THE MOISTURE IN THE ENVIRONMENT, AMIGO!
FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, I HAVE TO HAVE A LOT OF WATER TO WORK WITH!
THERE'S A TROUGH OVER HERE THAT HAS SOME WATER IN IT!
AND... SOME OTHER STUFF.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN FILTER IT, BUT BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T WANT ANY PART OF WHAT ELSE IS FLOATING IN HERE!

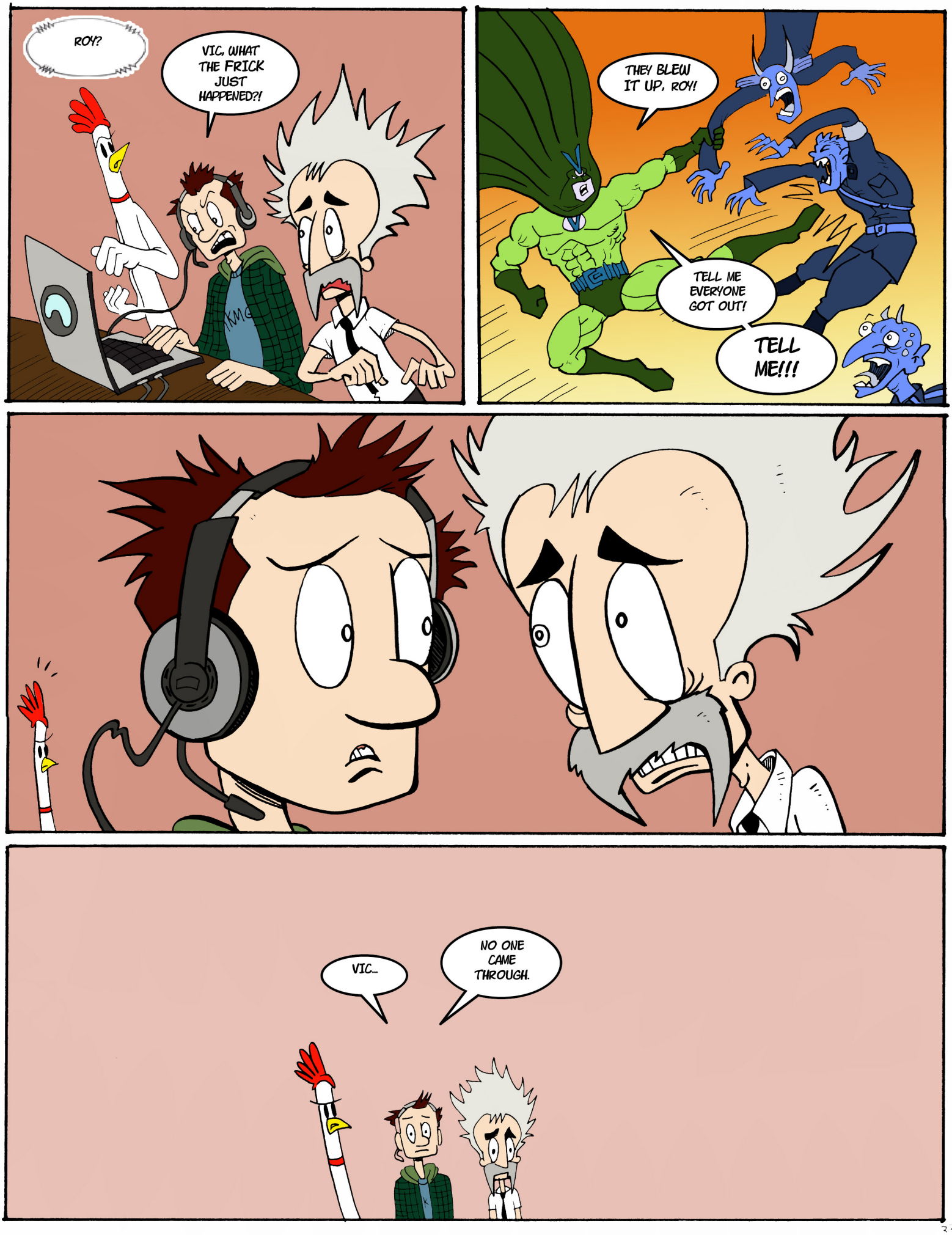

ALEX... JIM... GET HUGH IN THE HOUSE AND STAY SAFE.
I'LL HOLD THEM OFF.
GRRROWL!
HELP HIM OUT, BLACKIE!
GET THOSE FASCISTS!
RAARRR!
IN A VERY WEIRD WAY, THIS IS THE BEST DAY EVER.


WE'VE MADE IT THROUGH THE FIREWALL AND WE'RE ABOUT TO OPEN A WORMHOLE!
BUT IF WE OPEN IT NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO BRING ALL THOSE SOLDIERS BACK WITH YOU!
ROY, WHAT'S THE ETA ON THAT EXTRACTION?
CAN YOU OPEN THE WORMHOLE IN THE FARMHOUSE?
YOU GOT IT!
OPENING!

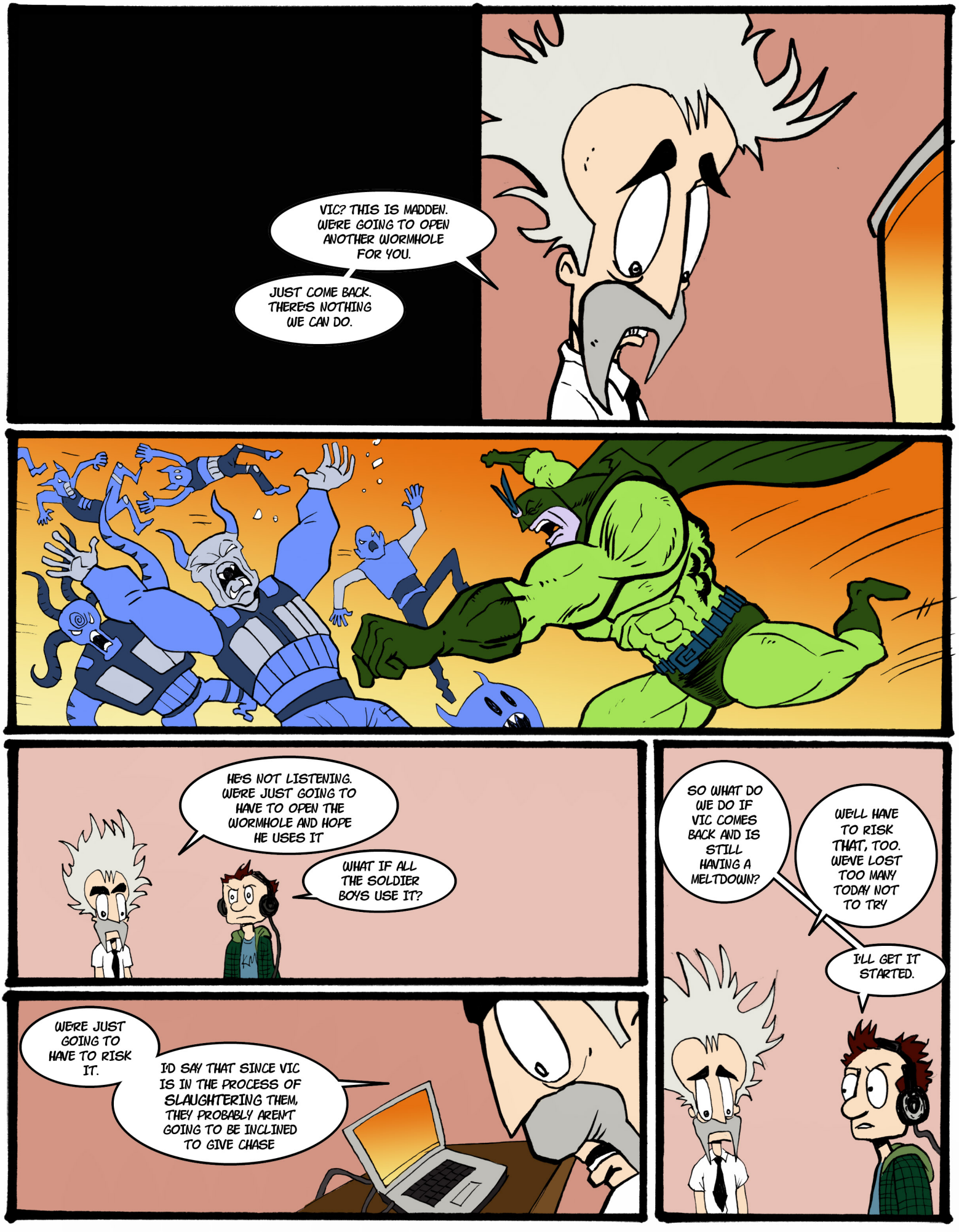
sir, they've broken through the firewall and have established a direct connection with our server!
we'll have to shut the whole system down if we don't do something NOW! :-S
where do they have the connection on the server?
it's coming from inside the farmhouse. it looks like they're trying to download something BIG off our system!
SEVER THE CONNECTION!!!
I don't care how you do it, but TERMINATE THAT LINK!
Boss says TAKE IT OUT!

KA-BOOMTY!
NO!

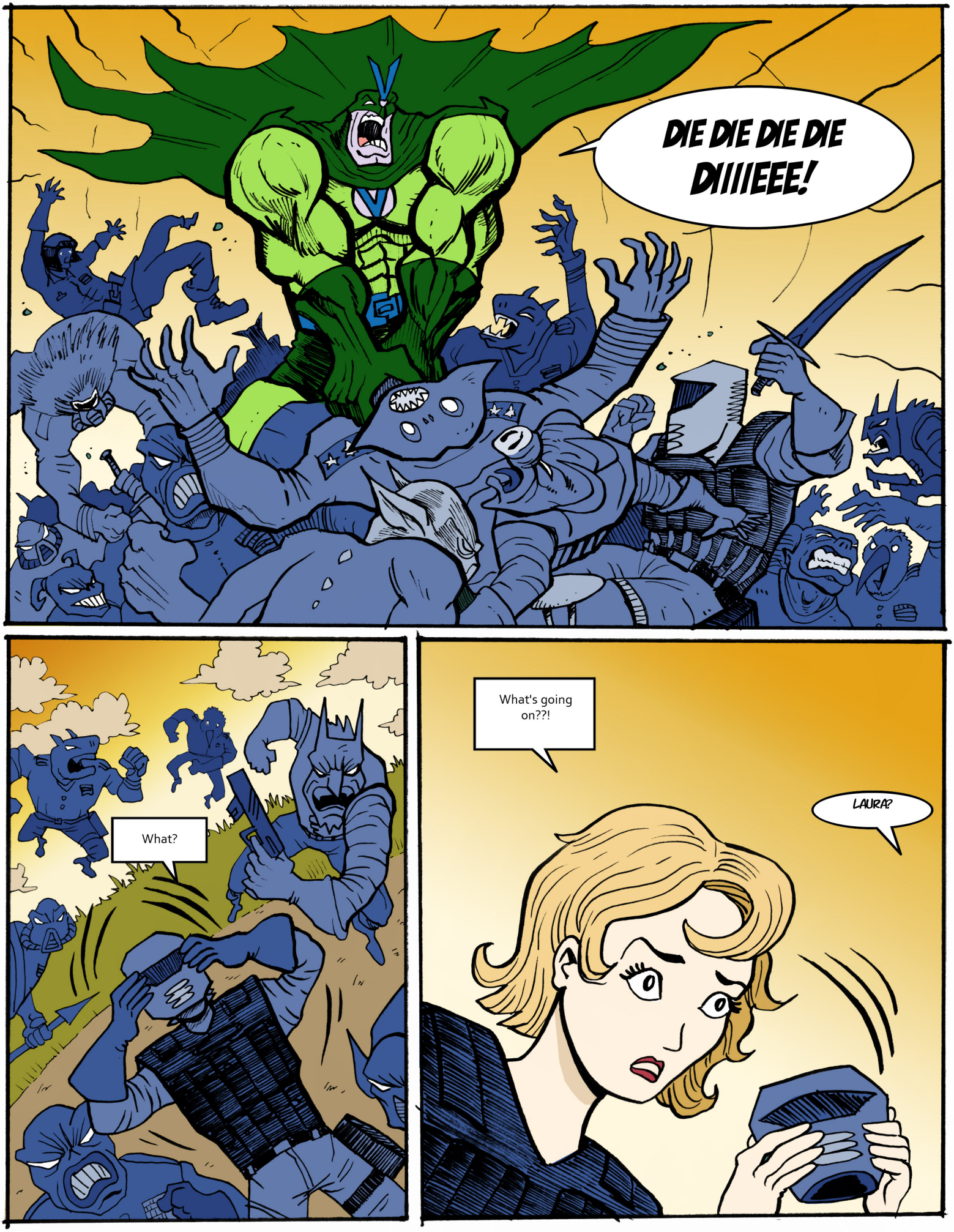
WHAT DID YOU...?
WHAT DID YOU DO?!?!
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
STAY AWAY!


ROY?
VIC, WHAT THE FRICK JUST HAPPENED?!
THEY BLEW IT UP, ROY!
TELL ME EVERYONE GOT OUT!
TELL ME!!!
VIC...
NO ONE CAME THROUGH.

YOU
I'LL KILL YOU!!
I'LL KILL YOU ALL!!!

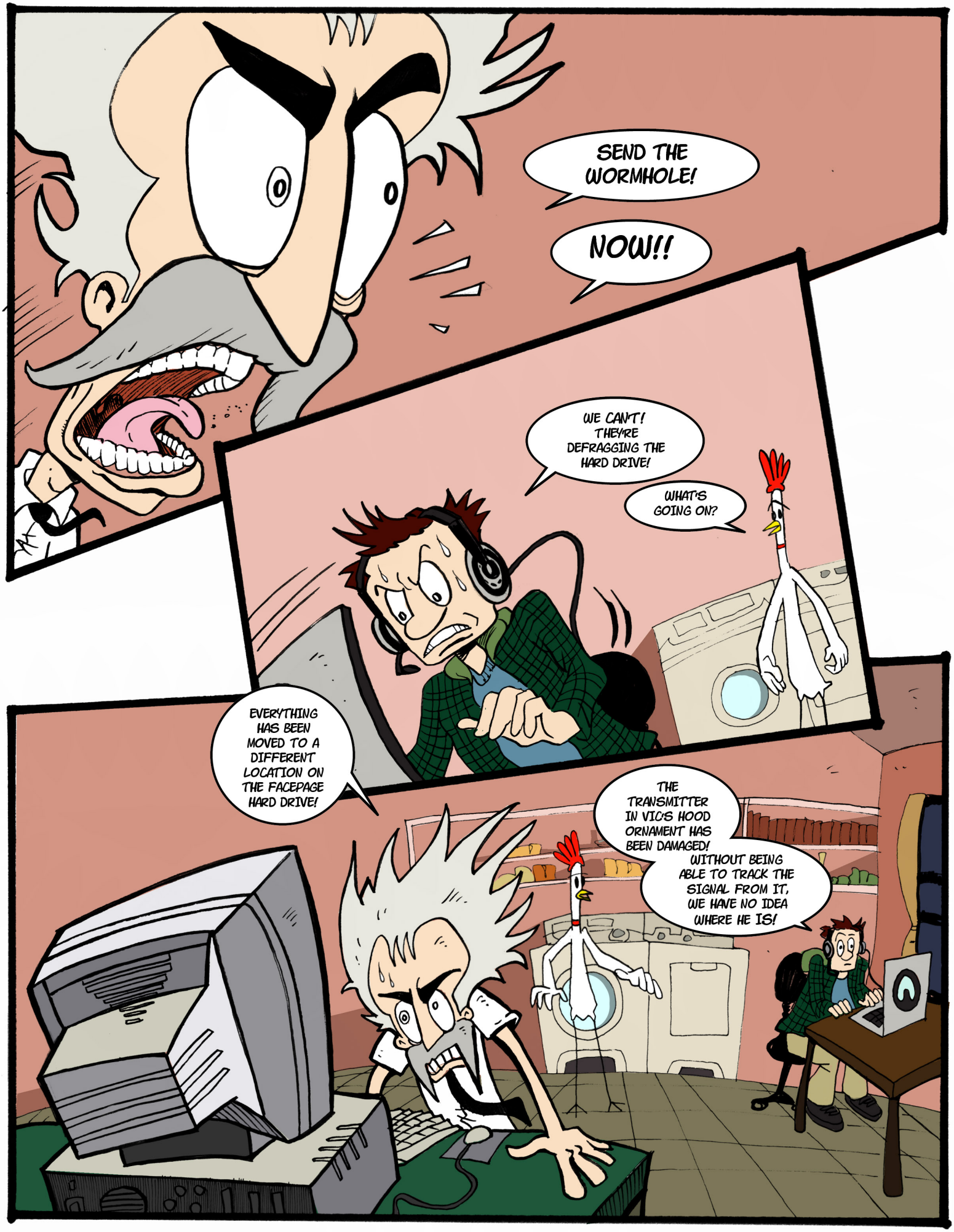

VIC? THIS IS MADDEN. WE'RE GOING TO OPEN ANOTHER WORMHOLE FOR YOU.
JUST COME BACK. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
HE'S NOT LISTENING. WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO OPEN THE WORMHOLE AND HOPE HE USES IT
WHAT IF ALL THE SOLDIER BOYS USE IT?
SO WHAT DO WE DO IF VIC COMES BACK AND IS STILL HAVING A MELTDOWN?
WE'LL HAVE TO RISK THAT, TOO. WE'VE LOST TOO MANY TODAY NOT TO TRY
I'LL GET IT STARTED.
WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO RISK IT.
I'D SAY THAT SINCE VIC IS IN THE PROCESS OF SLAUGHTERING THEM, THEY PROBABLY AREN'T GOING TO BE INCLINED TO GIVE CHASE

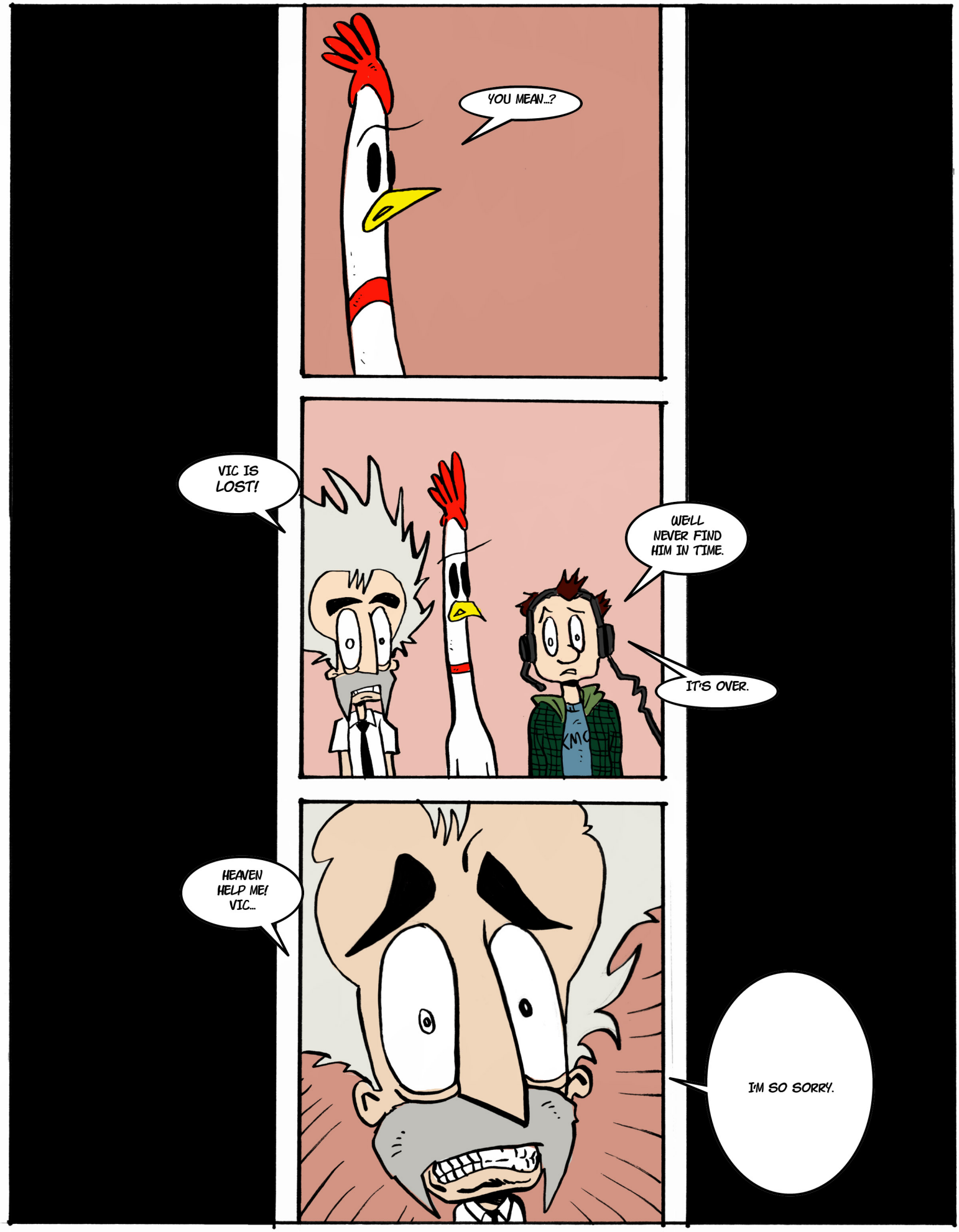
whose profile did u say was accessed by our energetic friend there?
Um... the profile accessed was one Laura O'Brien. Lincoln, NE.
maybe we should "draft" Ms. O'Brien in this little conflict.
I don't think she'd be much help, Sir.
According to her profile, she likes reading non-fiction and has a passion for animal rescue.
nonetheless, I'm sure she'd be willing 2 do her part.

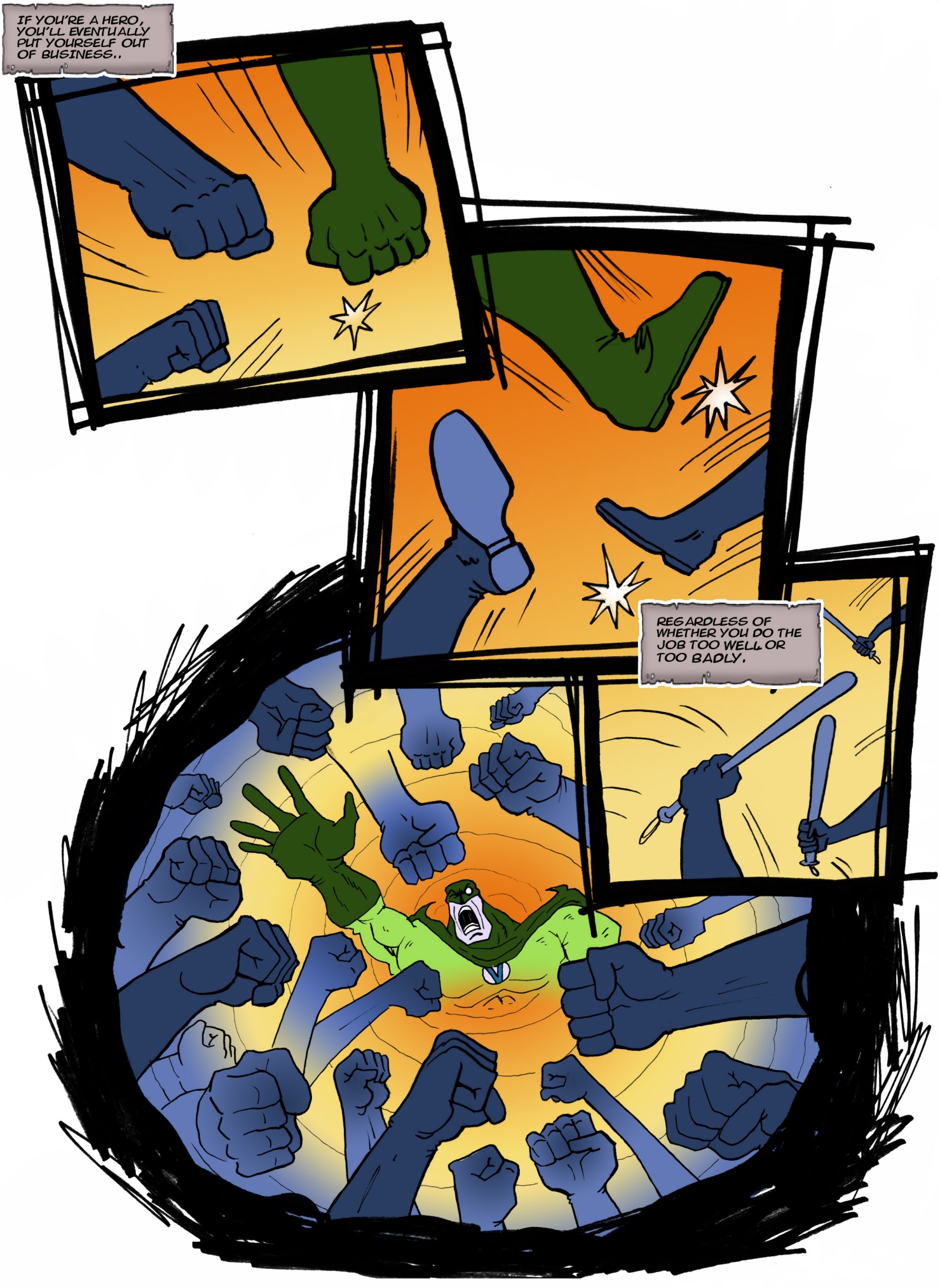

DIE DIE DIE DIE DIIIEEE!
What?
What's going on??!
LAURA?

IS IT REALLY YOU?
BUT HOW... WHY...?

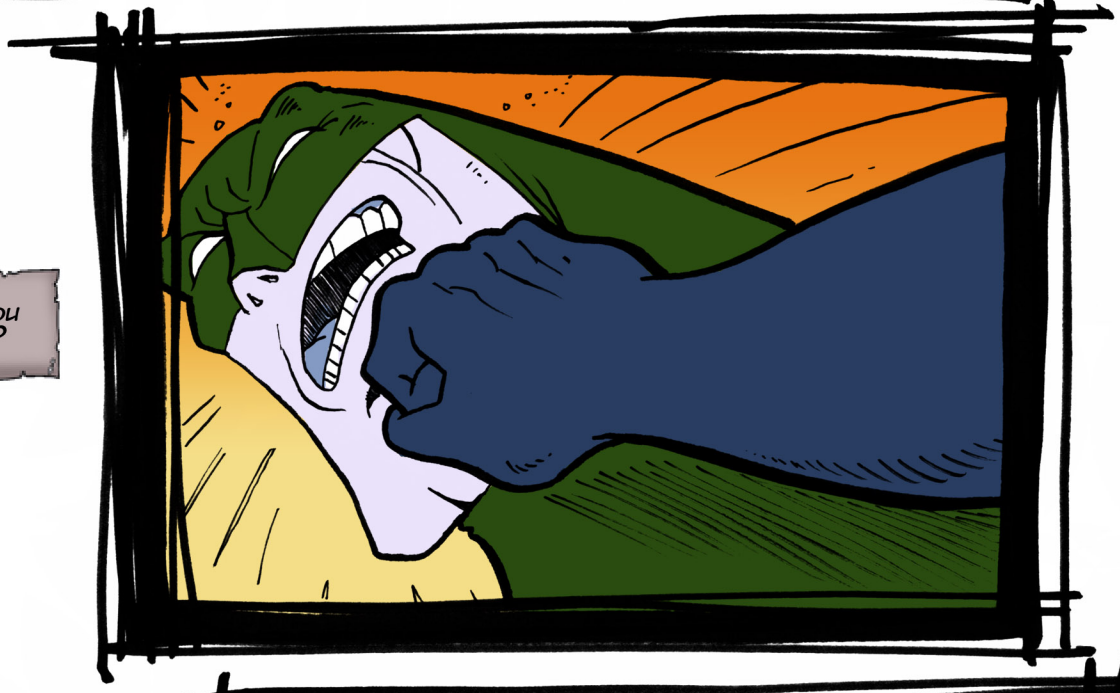
LOCKED ON TO VIC'S SIGNAL!
LET'S DO IT!
KEEE-
RUNCH!
OH, NO.
KMG
WHAT? WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?

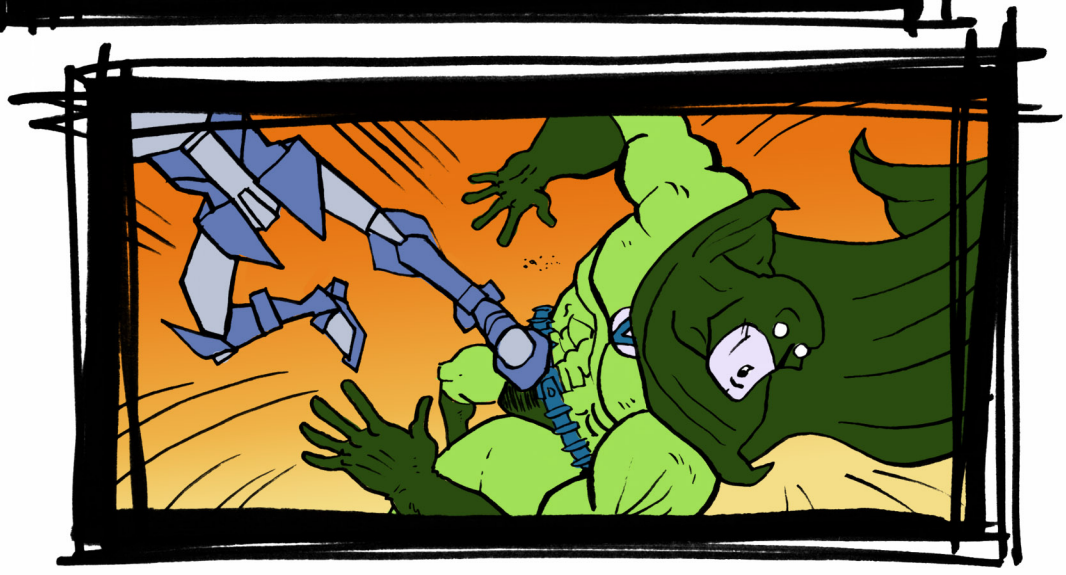

SEND THE WORMHOLE!
NOW!!
WE CAN'T! THEY'RE DEFRAGGING THE HARD DRIVE!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
EVERYTHING HAS BEEN MOVED TO A DIFFERENT LOCATION ON THE FACEPAGE HARD DRIVE!
THE TRANSMITTER IN VIC'S HOOD ORNAMENT HAS BEEN DAMAGED!
WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO TRACK THE SIGNAL FROM IT, WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE IS!


YOU MEAN...?
VIC IS LOST!
WE'LL NEVER FIND HIM IN TIME.
IT'S OVER.
HEAVEN HELP ME! VIC...
I'M SO SORRY.


IF YOU'RE A HERO, YOU'LL EVENTUALLY PUT YOURSELF OUT OF BUSINESS..
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU DO THE JOB TOO WELL OR TOO BADLY.

IF YOU SAVE EVERYONE, THEY'LL GET ON WITH THEIR LIVES AND SIMPLY WON'T NEED YOU ANY MORE.


IF YOU DON'T SAVE EVERYONE... WELL, YOU DON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE.


NO MATTER HOW EFFECTIVE YOU ARE (OR AREN'T), THE END RESULT IS THE SAME.

WHEN YOU SET YOURSELF UP AS THE SAVIOR...
THERE WILL COME A TIME...
SOONER OR LATER...
WHEN THERE WILL BE NO ONE AROUND...
TO SAVE YOU.
TO BE CONCLUDED !